

(F) ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR. - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) -- Information has been received that Welch resides at 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts; maintains an office at 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts; is an officer and director of the James O. Welch Company, candy manufacturers, 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and is editor and a director of the publication "American Opinion," which he irregularly publishes and issues of which have in the past contained anticommunist articles. Neither Welch nor his publication has been the subject of Bureau investigation. In January, 1959, he met with a group of leading industrialists of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area, at which time he lectured on communism, the urgent need for anticommunist action in the United States and his desires to establish ostensible communist front groups which in reality would be anticommunist groups. Welch indicated he is conducting a drive to obtain funds to be used for anticommunist activity and that his plans would necessitate large financial contributions. No further information has been received indicating Welch's success in putting his program into effect.

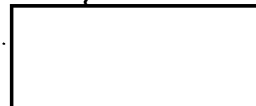
The personnel of your office should be made aware of Welch's activities and contemplated plans. You must be certain that your employees are alerted to promptly report to the Bureau any information concerning further activity by Welch in this regard. In the event information is received regarding any activity of Welch in the furtherance of setting his plan into operation, no investigation should be made but the Bureau should be promptly advised.

3/10/59  
SAC LETTER NO. 59-13

*Discussed at  
Conference*  
*cat*

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100-24754-1  
~~100-00-819~~  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED *Lah*  
MAR 12 1959



1. Literature put out by Birch Society entitled "SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE."  
Filed 11/6/63
2. Dec. 29 copy of "Yakima Eagle". Filed 1-11-66,
3. One credit & arrest check on

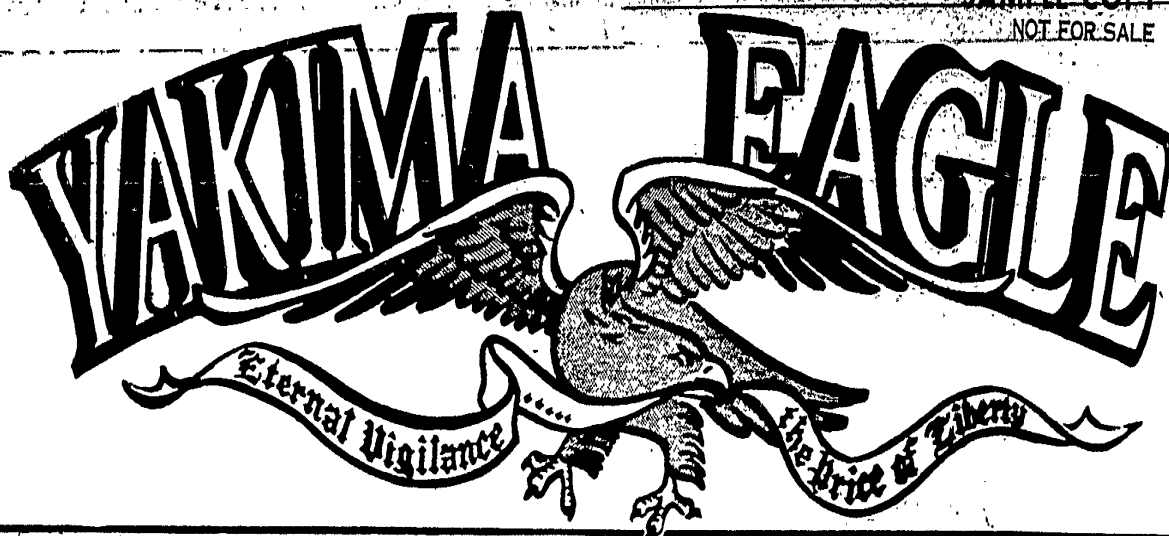
*filed 9/15/67*

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100-24754-1a

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NOV 6 1963	
FBI - SE	

*Dok*



VOL. 0 NO. 0

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98901

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, 1965

# The Eagle Meets The Bull (Dozer) Eagle To Publish Yakima Weekly

What with Yakima soon facing the Urban Renewal boosters, we thought it would be appropriate to tell you a thing or two about what is happening across the face of America where Urban renewal has been instigated, and where it has been avoided. As an example of the latter, Salt Lake City recently had an Urban Renewal vote, and the people voted it down, 6 to 1. This despite the fact that the newspapers, TV and Radio forces were all for it, and gave very little place to the citizens for private Property who were giving the people the facts about Urban Renewal. This bears out our own feeling that the people will vote intelligently when they are given ALL the facts, both the good and the bad.

The Eagle will research the Urban renewal project here in Yakima with an eye to showing just which areas have been cho-

sen by the planners as having a need for renewing, who owns the property to be condemned and when they bought it, and all other pertinent data. Being a firm believer in the principle of American Constitutional action, the EAGLE feels this matter of Government condemning private property, and then reselling it to other persons after it has been improved, is a matter which the people themselves should decide, and is not the prerogative of appointed officials. Our greatest danger lies in the fact that a vote of the people need not be taken to establish Urban renewal. It CAN be slipped over on an uninformed populace, without their being aware of what has happened. With the EAGLE flying over the valley, we doubt if too much of this type of thing will be attempted.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Because this first sample edition of the YAKIMA EAGLE is going to press before we have our reporter staff completed, there are some serious voids in news coverage. The EAGLE plans to give plenty of space to reporting on community happenings and some of the school programs which are of interest to all. Because of the lack of this material in this issue, our paper has a far greater preponderance of political copy than it normally will carry.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Three Yakima men have announced the founding of a new business in Yakima, to be known as Jeffersonian Publications, Inc. Floyd Paxton, Robert Glaspey and Don Tait are the principles, and the main effort of the new venture will be devoted to the publishing of the YAKIMA EAGLE, a weekly newspaper with a circulation of approximately 20 thousand, initially.

Date of the First issue will be determined by the availability of certain equipment necessary to the making up of the paper, but it is hoped that February first will see the EAGLE flying purposefully over the valley.

Mr. Paxton, reached in his office at KWOK LOK, Inc., had this to say about the reasons behind his decision to join in the new business:

"In traveling around the country, I have noticed that various major newspapers are divulging much newsworthy in-

missioners in arbitrarily bringing Yakima county under the far reaching effects of zoning, and the non existence of any effective means of reaching the people with the facts, provided the initial desire to see a local newspaper dedicated to the fundamental principles that have made America great. No one else seemed inclined to fill this gap, so, with two other likeminded individuals, the YAKIMA EAGLE





INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERS -- are these officers and committee chairmen. Center is Forrest E. Hardin, Moses Lake banker and president; Seated at left is David P. Johnson, Ephrata publisher. Standing, left to right, are Chester L. Waggerner, Moses Lake city manager; Mayor J. Edward Robinson of Soap Lake; Chairman Alex Law of the finance committee, Moses Lake, and Dave Haley, Ephrata, chairmen of the membership committee.

## Grant County Decides In Favor Of Private Development Corp.

With ten (count 'em...10) Port Districts operating in the county of Grant, citizens have turned to the Free Enterprise system once more, in the hope of actually attracting new industry. Being made up of the business and professional men shown above, the group will coordinate the activities of all the various chambers of Commerce, municipalities and area industrial councils, so that Grant County can finally put forth an image of united determination to enhance the industrial and tourist

climate of their part of Washington.

After going the Port District route, (most of which were formed out of fear of being swallowed up in the neighboring port district,) Grant County has learned that once everyone has a Port District, there is no value in having one any more, and the expense is wasted money. We wish our neighbors to the Northeast every success in their venture, and thank them for this news which is not generally put out down this way.

just ads which have been placed not represent real prices nor offerings by any of the merchants listed. They are used for the purpose of illustrating what our finished product will look like in the future, and do not represent any willingness or agreement by the listed advertisers to advertise in any future issues of this paper.

### AN EDITOR'S PRAYER

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,  
GRANT US THE COURAGE  
TO PRINT THE TRUTH,  
LETTING THE CHIPS FALL  
WHERE THEY MAY... BUT  
LET THERE BE NO CHIP ON  
OUR SHOULDER,  
GIVE US THE WISDOM TO  
BE SMART...NOT SMART-  
ALEC,  
KEEP EVER BEFORE US  
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
HATING EVIL  
AND HATING THE MEN WHO  
DO IT.  
MAY WHAT WE WRITE AND  
PUBLISH BE OF SERVICE  
AND HONOR TO THEE,  
KEEP US FROM SELF-  
RIGHTEOUSNESS AS WE  
LAUNCH THIS PAPER ON  
THE WINGS OF FREEDOM.  
  
THIS WE PRAY IN  
THE NAME OF OUR SAVIOR  
JESUS CHRIST,  
UPON WHOM WE REST  
AND DEPEND,  
AMEN.



FLOYD PAXTON

formation which evidently is not reaching our local news media. The EAGLE will be a valuable supplemental source of information and will dedicate its effort toward the goal of a fully informed Yakima citizenry. I am happy to join in this healthy endeavor."

Mr. Glaspey, when routed out from behind his mimeograph



ROBERT GLASPEY

machine in the office of Yakima Lumber and Box, Co., said: The act of the county com-

books looked over the range of and reading a book entitled "How to publish a successful Newspaper." All we could get out of him was a smile which resembled a cheshire cat, and the single word, "Amen."

The Yakima EAGLE will be distributed by carrier in the city and by mail on the rural routes for a limited time at no cost to the customer. The subscription price will be \$4.00 per year payable annually in advance. All subscriptions will date from the issue in which announcement is made of termination of free distribution. Newsstand



DON TAIT

sales will be made at 10¢ per copy after the free period.

This newspaper intends to fill the need for more than one viewpoint on the items of interest to Yakima. Being a weekly paper it will not be able to furnish the news daily hot off the griddle but by the same token it will be able to go into the more important events with more depth while they are still of interest.

CNTD. PG 9 COL 4





**Your wish is our command**

b6  
b7cFile No. 100-24754 -19<sup>①</sup>Date Received 10/29/63From COP   
(Name of Contributor)Richland, Washington  
(Address of Contributor)By SA   
(Name of Special Agent)To Be Returned Yes ☐  
No ☒

## Description:

Literature put out by Birch Society  
entitled "SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE".*See Serial 143*

100-24754

/ q ①

SUPPORT YOUR



LOCAL POLICE

They need it. The Communists know, as the American people do not, that the city and community police forces now constitute one of the most important remaining obstacles to the gradual, insidious, and at first invisible, establishment of the mechanics of their Communist police state. The local working police are the best friends everywhere, of anti-Communists like ourselves, because they constantly run up against all of the dirty tactics of the Communists, and of the dupes and allies of the Communists, in their respective areas.

For this reason there has been a subtle, but now increasingly bolder and more extensive effort, to harass and discredit local police forces and their individual members, going on in the country for more than a decade. Just one illustration was the CBS television show, The Biography Of A Bookie Joint, which was designed to make all working "cops" look like grafting bums; and which has been proved by a thorough later investigation to have been basically as phony as was the "interview" with your Founder in Santa Barbara two years ago, that CBS broadcast all over the country. (We revealed the true facts about this incredibly dirty and deliberate distortion in an earlier bulletin, and reprinted those paragraphs in a thin leaflet as The Story Of A Hoax.) And we could fill this bulletin with other illustrations.

This support of their local police by all good citizens everywhere is going to become especially important now that Communist-inspired racial riots are getting to be a regular part of the American scene. The police will be "crucified" by the Liberals, in the press and over the airwaves, for practically everything they do in the line of duty. And this will be true no matter how circumspectly they handle themselves, nor with what careful restraint they use their authority, in connection with every large or small outbreak of civil disorder which the Communist plotters can produce.

Nor will the Communists nor even their Liberal dupes leave to chance the supply of grist for their mills of distortion. The police chief of Birmingham was doing a superb job of maintaining law and order in the midst of a hot situation, while letting thousand of Negroes march and hundreds of white people protest all they wished. He merely set up a line of police, protected by their police dogs, to keep the two groups apart. And peace was maintained day after day, while the level heads of the city, both white and colored, got together and tried to solve the problems underlying the turmoil. But this was the last thing that the instigators of the trouble wanted; and when incidents didn't arise, incidents had to be created. So a carefully planned tableau was enacted. While cameras were poised and ready to catch the show at the right instant, one or more hotheads or dupes among the Negroes went up to the line and deliberately kicked one or more of the dogs. The result was a

picture, plastered in the papers all over the United States (and on the front page of the Boston Herald, of course), of a policeman barely holding onto a dog which was straining at the leash to attack a Negro among the Birmingham "civil rights" advocates in Birmingham.

There were no other results of the incident except the picture, which was the glorious piece of propaganda that the Communists wanted. But it shows you what the police will be up against everywhere in simply trying, as calmly as possible under the circumstances, to maintain law and order. The Federal Marshals, for another illustration, not only were not needed in Oxford, Mississippi for that purpose, but actually created most of the rioting as they obviously were intended to do. But of course the more the local police, anywhere or everywhere, can be discredited, the more willing the gullible American people will be to accept the entry of Federal troops as necessary to put down rioting.

Among the more carefully plotted schemes for harassing the police, discrediting individual policemen, and discouraging all those who might want to do their duty, has been the setting up of Police Review Boards -- to which many gullible dogooders and bleeding hearts have been giving support. Their chief function, in practice anyway if not in theory, is to make every individual police officer scared to death, as to every action he takes even in dealing with vicious criminals in emergency situations, of being called before some board weeks or months later, and condemned with loss of pay or maybe loss of job, for having been too unkind to the poor wayward unfortunates who were about to shoot him in the back, or stamp in his face, when he tried to interfere with their waywardness.

We shall return to this whole theme in later bulletins. At present we suggest simply that you

(a) Oppose the continuance or establishment of Police Review Boards.

(b) When you come across questionable criticism of your local police by some Liberal editor or nice-Nellie commentator, find out the real facts if you can. Usually the fellow officers of those being criticized will give you the unvarnished truth. Then if you find the criticism to have been unjustified, write and put the record straight.

Reproduced from the July, 1963\*

Bulletin of The John Birch Society.

These sheets are available, in any quantity,  
at 100 for \$1.00, postage paid.

The attractive blue and white emblem on the reverse  
side of this sheet is also available as a 3 1/4" by 3 1/4"  
gummed sticker, in any quantity, at

50 for \$1.00, postage paid. Order from  
The John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Massachusetts.



File No. 100-24754-1A <sup>(2)</sup>

Date Received 1/5/66

From [Redacted]

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

[Redacted]

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Yakima, Wash.

(CITY AND STATE)

By Eugene P. Clark

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes ☐  
No ☒

Description:

"Dec 29 copy of  
Yakima Eagle"

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b7C

Vol  
I

File No. 100-24754-1A(3)

Date Received 8-21-67

From 1.C   
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

FBI  
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Seattle Wash  
(CITY AND STATE)

By   
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes  
☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Description:

1 credit + airt  
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100-24754-1A<sup>3</sup>

Record Request  
FD-125 (Rev. 4-3-62)

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☐ Birth ☒ Credit ☒ Criminal ☐ Motor Vehicle ☐ Death ☐ Marriage \* ☐ INS

To	[Redacted]	Buded	100-24754
Return to	[Redacted]	File number	

S-256

Name and aliases of subject, applicant, or employee, and spouse

[Redacted]

Addresses

Residence	[Redacted]
Business	
Former	

\* Date and place of marriage  
(if applicable)

Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Age	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes
Birth date		Birthplace				
Arrest Number		Fingerprint classification			Criminal specialty	

Specific information desired

Results of check

Cred Bur - 8-21-67 NRC  
S.E. P.D. 8 NRC  
KCSO - 8- NRC

(C) ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F) dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Welch, a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign, Bufile 62-104401. Welch has written a manuscript entitled "The Politician," which is a vicious attack on the political life and beliefs of President Eisenhower. Welch has not published the manuscript but has had a limited number of copies printed which he has distributed or "loaned" to friends or individuals who he believed would be interested in its contents. The Bureau is in possession of a copy of it. Therefore, if the manuscript is offered to you for reproduction purposes, it will not be necessary to send copies to the Bureau.

Welch also created an organization in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world." Chapters of this Society are coming into existence in various parts of the country. The Bureau has received several inquiries concerning the Society and is in possession of a copy of "The Blue Book," which sets forth information on the Society.

The above is furnished for information purposes. In the event a chapter of The John Birch Society is organized in your territory, the Bureau should be notified promptly and furnished a resume of the chapter's activities. The Bureau is particularly interested in any efforts by subversive elements to take over or use this Society or its chapters. No investigation should be conducted.

1/26/60  
SAC LETTER NO. 60-5

Very truly yours,  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- 3 -

100-00-819

*Open dead*

100-29759-2

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JAN 28 1960	
FBI - SEATTLE	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (100-

b6  
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DATE: 5/16/60

FROM : [REDACTED] (Adm. Clk.)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY,  
Info. Concerning

RE: SAC LETTER NO. 60-5: File 100-24754

100-24754-2

John Birch

60-478-180 p. 97;

On 5/16/60 [REDACTED] appeared at the office to volunteer the following information re THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

[REDACTED] stated he attended an impromptu meeting at the home of [REDACTED] at which time a [REDACTED] FNU, led a discussion high-lighted by a tape recording by ROBERT H. WELCH Jr.

In this tape WELCH set out a goal of "Less government, more responsibility, and a better world". [REDACTED] was said to point out that membership dues for the Society would be two dollars for men and one dollar for women to be paid monthly; that the Society would be divided into regional chapters consisting of twenty to twenty-five members with a headquarters office in Belmont, Massachusetts.

[REDACTED] quoted [REDACTED] as saying that within two years the communists will have control of the United States using armed aggression as a last resort to thier goal. This statement is primarily what prompted [REDACTED] to come to the office coupled with the fact he recently completed his military obligation where he learned the seriousness of the communist threat and became extremely anti-communistic. [REDACTED] said his father is signed up to receive a booklet on the J.B.S. and will make it available to the office.

Shortly after [REDACTED] visit, a [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the office to inquire if the J.B.S. is a subversive organization. Writer advised her of the Bureaus policy and refered her to the library. [REDACTED] stated she now belongs to a chapter in Seattle and feels it is an organization with American ideals and is seeking information so she can tell her friends more about it.

2 - Seattle  
100-  
RWL:

Pls. prepare  
l. h. memo  
on this. See  
100-24754-2

100-24754-3

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 16 1960	

4

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

5/24/60

SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

b6  
b7C

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Re SAC Letter No. 60-5, dated 1/26/60.

On May 16, 1960, [redacted]  
[redacted] Seattle, Washington, appeared at the  
Seattle office to volunteer the following information  
regarding The John Birch Society.

[redacted] stated that he attended an  
impromptu meeting at the home of [redacted]  
[redacted] at which time a  
[redacted] (phonetic) led a discussion highlighted by  
a tape recording by ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.

In the tape, WELCH set out a goal of  
"Less Government, More Responsibility, and a Better  
World." [redacted] was said to point out that membership  
dues for the Society would be two dollars for men and  
one dollar for women to be paid monthly; that the  
Society would be divided into regional chapters consisting  
of twenty to twentyfive members with a headquarters office  
in Belmont, Massachusetts.

[redacted] quoted [redacted] as saying that  
within two years the communists will have control of  
the United States, using armed aggression as a last  
resort to their goal. [redacted] stated that this  
statement prompted him to come to the office to report  
the matter, coupled with the fact that he recently  
completed his military obligation where he learned the  
seriousness of the communist threat. He stated that his  
father is signed up to receive a booklet on The John  
Birch Society and will make it available to this office.

2 Bureau  
1 Seattle  
FCD:EMP  
(3)

*Cut*

4

SE 100-24754

Shortly after [redacted] visit, a [redacted] telephonically contacted the office to inquire if The John Birch Society was a subversive organization. She stated that she now belongs to a chapter of the Society in Seattle and feels that it is an organization with American ideals and was seeking information concerning it so that she could tell her friends.

Indices of the Seattle Office contain no reference to [redacted].

It is believed that the [redacted] referred to is [redacted]

[redacted] Washington.

Indices of the Seattle Office contain several references to [redacted] all of which reflect that he is intensely anti-communist. He has visited the Seattle Office on several occasions and has addressed communications to this office. He has always expressed great admiration for the Director and he holds the Bureau in the highest esteem. He furnished this office with a copy of a letter which he had sent to MIKE WALLACE which was forwarded to the Bureau by Seattle letter dated May 14, 1958 captioned "Television Interview Between MIKE WALLACE and CYRUS EATON over American Broadcasting Company facilities on May 3, 1958."

[redacted] has also mailed out cards and pamphlets expressing personal opposition to any further summit meetings with NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV because he feels that the United States stands only to lose in any further dealing with the head of a godless, traitorous, Russian communist state.

The only reference in the Seattle indices to a [redacted] is that on February 14, 1959 he was reported as trying to enlist a complainant in membership in the Constitution Party by explaining that this Party stands for the repeal of the income tax, lowering of business taxes, as well as other similar types of proposals in the nature of reducing government spending.

SE 100-24754

The Bureau will be furnished with any further information received concerning the activities of The John Birch Society, Seattle Chapter, as it is received.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

5/17/60

### Aliases

Birthplace

Remarks

I

File No.

100-24754-5

5/17/60  
(date)

(date)

(date)  
5/17/60  
(date)

SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....  
SERIALIZED..... FILED.....  
MAY 17 1960  
FBI - SEATTLE

I - Identical                      ? - Not identifiable  
NI - Not identical                U - Unavailable reference



Date

5/17/60

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Subject

Aliases

Address

Birth Date

Birthplace

☐

Exact Spelling

☐

Main Criminal Case Files Only

☐

Restrict to Locality of

☐

All References

☐

Criminal References Only

☐

Main Subversive Case Files Only

☐

Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)

☐

Subversive References Only

☐

Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

Prob. Ident.

Requested by

Squad

Extension

File No.

Searched by

5/17/60  
(date)

Consolidated by

(date)

Reviewed by

5/17/60  
(date)

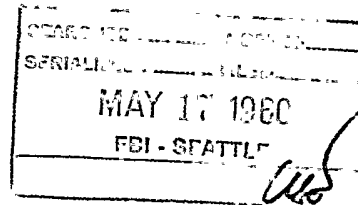
File Review Symbols

I - Identical

? - Not identifiable

NI - Not identical

U - Unavailable reference



RECEIVED  
MAY 17 1960  
FBI - SEATTLE

TRUE COPY

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
Bremerton, Wash.  
June 11, 1960

Dear Mr. Hoover;

I know sir you are indeed a busy man but I SO would appreciate advice from you. I have read much lately on communism and sincerely feel it is a grave threat to our country at this time. I have read that our government is very far infiltrated by communists and that we have many organizations that have good American names that claim to be set up to fight communism that actually are fronted by communists; also that through communist infiltration in our press and through television, we don't always get true accounts of the news we hear.

Recently I heard of a body called the 'John Birch Society' set up by John Welsh to fight communism in this country offensively. It claims to be a body of patriotic Americans that are doing their best to combat communism in the United States. I have a friend who traced John Birch through naval intelligence and it was reported to him that John Birch had red affiliations and I got the distinct idea that Birch himself was supposed to have been a red. I use past tense as John Birch is deceased and the society I speak of is named after him. I really find it hard to believe that John Birch was a communist, but, if this is a fact, what then of Mr. Welsh and the 'John Birch Society'? I urgently request your advise on this.

I am deeply interested in doing every bit I canto stop the advance of communism in our country but I just don't know what to do or where to start. What can I do to fight communism???? Where can I safely send financial support and KNOW it will go toward the fight against communism rather than to aid its cause?

Also, where might I best find out about the men running for government positions that I give my vote for, that I might know without a doubt what the man I'm voting for stands?

I look forward to your reply and sincerely appreciate any and all information forwarded. I thank you very much.

Yours very truly, [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED]

TRUE COPY

June 27, 1960

[Redacted]  
Bremerton, Washington

b6  
b7C

Dear [Redacted]:

Your letter postmarked June 15, 1960, has been received, and the interest which prompted your communication is indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance to you, the functions of the FBI as a fact-gathering agency do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to comment upon the individual and organization you mentioned.

The FBI has been charged by Presidential directive with the responsibility for the investigation of subversive activities and the correlation of all information pertaining thereto with other agencies of this Government. In this connection, the President has urged all patriotic individuals to report all information concerning espionage, sabotage and subversive activities to the FBI, so that it may be correlated and appropriate steps taken to safeguard our country and our form of Government from subversive elements. In the event, therefore, you receive any information which you believe may be of interest to the FBI, you may communicate directly with me or the Special Agent in Charge of our Seattle Office, located at 1015 Second Avenue, Seattle 4, Washington.

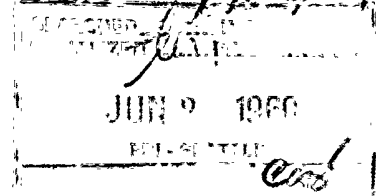
I am enclosing some material available for general distribution by this Bureau which may be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

*J. E. Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures (5)

(1 - Seattle (Enclosure) (See note page two)  
*red in*



b6  
b7C

ATTENTION: SAC, SEATTLE

Enclosed is a copy of correspondent's communication. Bufiles contain no identifiable data concerning the correspondent.

Information concerning the John Birch Society is contained in SAC Letter 60-5.

The following items of literature were sent to the correspondent:

1. Reprint from FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, March, 1960, with analysis of the 17th National Convention of the Communist Party, USA.
2. "Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality."
3. "Communist 'New Look,' A Study in Duplicity."
4. "How to Beat Communism."
5. "God and Country or Communism?"

b6  
b7C

Seattle 66, Wn.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Seattle, Wn.

Dear Sirs:

We have been reading publications from the John Birch Society, & are interested in it. Before going ahead with any activity connected with it, we would appreciate your approval of this organization as being strictly American.

Though dedicated to anti-communism - it could still be a means of obtaining names of those actively anti-communistic. I doubt it, but would feel better if your office could offer some confirmation that it is what it claims to be. 100-247548 (A)

Thanking you in advance  
& enclosing their letter, I am,

Sincerely yours, AUG 2 1960

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

ATTLE

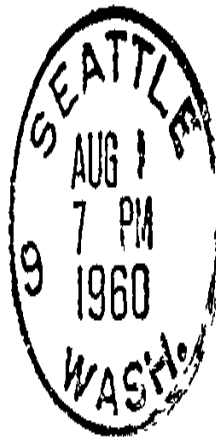
act 2/1/60  
Telephone CH 2-2322



Seattle 66 Wn.

b6

b7C



Federal Bureau of Investigation

1015 - 2nd Ave  
Seattle, Wn.

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)(REG)

8/3/60

SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

ROBERT H. WELCH, Jr.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(IS)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Re SAC letter #60-5 dated 1/26/60, and Seattle letter 5/24/60.

For information of the Bureau, the Seattle Office received a personal letter, postmarked August 1, 1960, from a [redacted] Seattle 66, Washington, wherein [redacted] asked for some information concerning the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY and she also wanted to know whether or not the FBI approved of this organization. [redacted] stated that even though the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY claims to be anti-Communist, she thought that it might be some scheme to obtain names of individuals who are actively anti-Communist.

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b7C

Enclosed with [redacted] letter was a copy of a letter dated July 6, 1960, bearing the heading of "THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC., Belmont 78, Massachusetts", which letter was addressed to [redacted] and signed by [redacted] Home Office". The contents of this letter are as follows:

"Dear [redacted]:

"Thank you for your letter of June 23th with the two dollars enclosed, and the column from your weekly Progress. A Blue Book has been sent to you, and we hope you decide to join with us in our efforts.

2 - Bureau (REG)  
2 - Seattle  
HEN/ehp  
(4)

87C



SE 100-24754

"We do have a local chapter in Seattle, and I would suggest that you write to our Coordinator, [REDACTED] Mercer Island, Washington. I am sending a copy of this letter to him, so he will know of your interest.

"We look forward to hearing from you, and send you our best wishes."

The individual named [REDACTED] [REDACTED] apparently is identical with the individual mentioned on page two of the above referenced Seattle letter.

b6  
b7c

The Seattle Office indices contains no reference to [REDACTED]

The Bureau will be furnished with any further information received concerning the activities of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, Seattle Chapter, as it is received.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (100-New)

DATE: 8/9/67

FROM : NIGHT CLERK [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] 87-9475

INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
telephonically contacted this office tonight to advise that he  
had just taken [REDACTED] to a meeting at  
[REDACTED] the home of the above entitled  
subject!

[REDACTED] said [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and has had [REDACTED] talking about Communism  
and the war in Vietnam now for some weeks.

He said the meeting tonight was to show a movie about  
Communism and the war.

[REDACTED] said he would be willing to talk to an agent about  
this, noting that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## ADDENDUM:

Sefile 100-24754 (John Birch Society) serial 8 reflects  
an letter inquiry about the JBS from [REDACTED] possibly  
ident. [REDACTED] could have his ideologies mixed up.

PJW:pjw  
(2)



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

100-24754-8-①

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 9 1967	
FBI—SEATTLE	

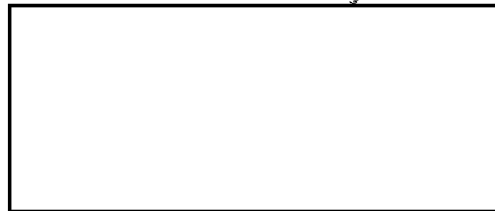
December 17, 1960

Gentlemen:

The enclosed mimeographed notice was found and turned over to me by one of the seamen on this vessel. He noticed the paper on the deck of his room after leaving port at Long Beach, Calif. on the night of Dec. 13.

Upon docking at Seattle I telephoned your office and was directed to mail the paper to you for further consideration.

A search of all quarters has been made for any additional notices or other similar literature, results being negative.



b6  
b7C

*ack*

100-24754-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 19 1960	
FBI - SEATTLE	

*CHS*

THE

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Invites You to See

The Film Strip Presentation

"COMMUNISM ON THE MAF"

Here at

LOMETA LAUDRAMATIC

1803 W. Lometa Blvd.

Friday Evening      December 16      8:00 PM

Let's know if you're coming

Call DA 6-3584

Capt.

After 5 Days Return to

b6

b7C

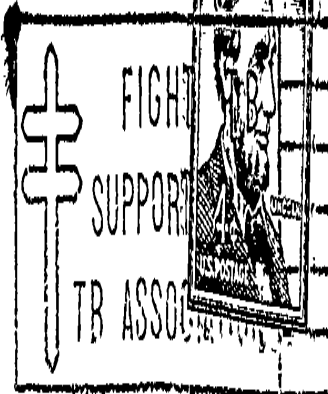
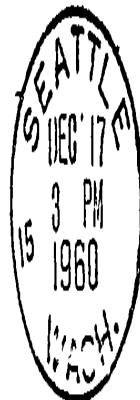
Richfield Corporation

MARINE DEPARTMENT

~~XXXXXX~~ West Seventh Street ~~XXXX~~

Long Beach 13, California

1300 West Eighth Street



F. B. I.

1015 2nd Ave.

Seattle, Wash.

1015 Second Avenue  
Seattle 4, Washington  
December 21, 1960

Captain [redacted]  
Care of Richfield Oil Corporation  
Marine Department  
1300 West 8th Street  
Long Beach 13, California

b6  
b7C

Dear Captain [redacted]:

This will acknowledge receipt of  
your letter dated December 17, 1960, and its  
enclosure.

Your thoughtfulness and courtesy  
in sending this material to me are sincerely  
appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. E. MILNES  
Special Agent in Charge

CHD:haf  
(2)

1 - addressee  
1 - Seattle (100-24754)

*Chs*

100-24754-9A

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754-2)

DATE: January 17, 1961

FROM :

SA

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
SECURITY MATTER

On December 22, 1960,  home  
phone REgent 3-2319, employed by the   
 Bellingham, phone REgent 3-6000,  
furnished the following information.

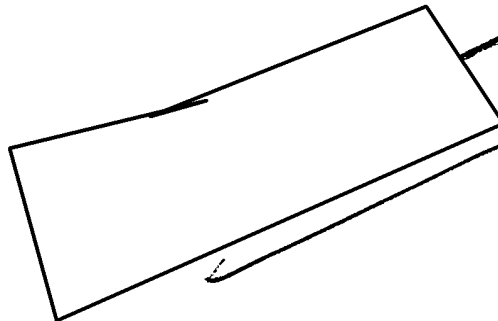
He advised that he had just finished observing 2½ hours of film which was supposed to be Anti-Communist. However, he is "scared to death". At least an hour and one-half of this film is organizational type. It is put out by the John Birch Society, whose organizational set-up and procedures appear to be similar to an absolute dictatorship. He received the impression that they were duplicating the Communist Party cellular type of organization and are an absolute dictatorship of their own although they claim to be Anti-Communist.

b6  
b7C

It appears from what he could observe that the John Birch Society is set up along the Nazi-Fascist type organization. They are catering to Anti-Communists and are very active in Bellingham at the present time in a campaign to recruit additional members.

They do not call their organization cells, but they call them chapters. The set-up is such that as they can grow and expand, they divide the chapters.

100-24754-2  
AGG/krd  
(2)



100-24754-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 18 1961	
FBI - SEATTLE	

*CHS*

SE 100-24754-2

100-643-1 2 N.W.  
100-6901-4437- Prob. I d -  
non deny.

The person spearheading the organization in Bellingham is [redacted] states he feels sure this is a nation-wide organization and feels that because of his impression of their tactics and organization, somebody in the country should be aware of what they are and what they are doing.

b6  
b7c

He has no knowledge of any Nazi or Fascist or Communist Activity participated in by the organization. However, he feels that because of their procedures and set-up, they are potentially a dictatorship or Fascists potential.



DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

1/23/61

SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Reference SAC Letter 60-5 dated 1/26/60.

On 12/22/60 [ ] an employee of the [ ]  
[ ] Bellingham, Washington,  
advised that he had just recently seen a lengthy film  
which had been shown by the local chapter of the JOHN  
BIRCH SOCIETY. He could not provide the name of this  
film but stated that it was one that had him "scared  
to death."

It is possible that the film to which [ ]  
was referring is "Communism On The Map" inasmuch as  
it is known this film is being shown currently throughout  
this area.

With reference to the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, [ ]  
said that this organization was very active in Bellingham  
at the present time in a campaign to recruit additional  
members. He said that the person actively promoting the  
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in his city was [ ]. Files  
of the Seattle Office contain no adverse information  
identifiable with [ ].

This information is being provided to the  
Bureau as an indication that the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
is active in the Bellingham area.

2 - Bureau  
(1) - Seattle  
CHD/jpv  
(3)

Searched .....  
Serialized .....  
Indexed .....  
Filed .....

100 24754-11

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

1/27/61

SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
INTERNAL SECURITY

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Re SAC Letter 60-5, dated 1/26/60.

Mr. MONTCLAIR SPEAR, former FBI Agent practicing law at the Jones Building, Seattle, Washington, advised by telephone on 1/26/61 that he was in possession of literature relative to the subject organization. He stated that some friends and associates of his who he did not identify are interested in having a meeting with him to interest him in the said organization.

Mr. SPEAR advised that he did not wish to identify himself with any organization which might be of a Facists or Communist character and that he is interested in doing what he can to fight the Communists.

Concerning the subject organization, Mr. SPEAR stated that it was his understanding that it was founded by Mr. ROBERT WELCH, a former Vice President of the National Association of Manufacturers. He related that the said Society gets its name from an American missionary named JOHN BIRCH, who allegedly was killed by the Red Chinese.

The idea of the Society, according to Mr. SPEAR, is to set up organized groups or chapters throughout the country for the purpose of bringing mass pressure on the Congress when legislation favorable to Communists is being considered by the Congress. This mass pressure will be felt by the Congress by an avalanche of letters to each Congressman being sent individually by each member of the Society opposing the legislation determined by the Society as being of aid or benefit to the Communists.

2 - Bureau (REG)  
① - Seattle  
JPM/jpv  
(3)

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

100-24754-12

SE 100-24754

Mr. SPEAR stated that he could not and would not abdicate his right to determine for himself what legislation he should oppose or support, should he become a member of this organization.

Mr. SPEAR mentioned that the Society suggests that the Director's book, "Masters of Deceit" be read by each member, and he related that a reprint of the Director's speech, "Communist Target--Youth," be read by the members of the Society, and such reprint has been sent by the Society to its members.

Mr. SPEAR was advised that the FBI would be unable to comment upon the subject organization and the Mr. WELCH mentioned, and he indicated that he understood the situation and went on to say that if he develops further information on the subject Society, he will relay the same to this office.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

[REDACTED]  
Mount Vernon, Washington  
February 9, 1961

The Federal Bureau of Investigation  
1015 Second Street  
Seattle, Washington

b6  
b7c

Gentlemen:

There is an organization in our area that has a chapter in Burlington, Washington, and which is contemplating an additional chapter in Mount Vernon. They call themselves The John Burch (Birch) Society.

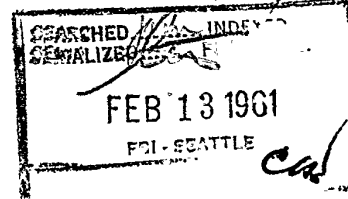
Their objective appears to be that of militant anti-communism. Their ranks include many ultra-conservatives. They are mostly sincere, respectable people with an honest desire to rid our country, and the world, of communism.

However, their methods indicate to me that they are motivated and guided more by passion than intelligence. Actually, there is a very noticeable parallel between their movement and the rise of Hitler, both in the areas of tactics employed and the people who make up the membership.

Please send me what information you can supply ~~me~~ regarding this organization. I would like to know who is behind the whole thing, what their objective is exactly, who is John Burch (or Birch), etc.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,  
[REDACTED]



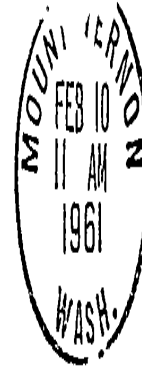


[Redacted]  
MOUNT VERNON, WASH.

Attn: [Redacted]

b6  
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls



The Federal Bureau of Investigation  
1015 Second Avenue  
Seattle, Washington

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (

DATE: 2/13/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7CSUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
Bellingham Chapter

As reported by informants, a <sup>speech</sup> ~~meeting~~ sponsored by the National Council of American Soviet Friendship was held at the Aftermath Club, Bellingham on 2/3/61 with RICHARD MORFORD as the speaker. An announcement of the meeting was carried in the "Bellingham Herald" of 2/2/61.

On the morning of 2/3/61, I was contacted by [REDACTED] a Bellingham Accountant, who is the organizer for the local chapter of the John Birch Society. [REDACTED] stated that he and a group of local citizens were going to attend "that Communist Bront" meeting at the Aftermath Club and asked if I had any suggestion as to what the group might do at the meeting. I told him I could make no comment in this regard. He then asked if there was anything the group should refrain from doing and I told him it was not possible for me to make any comment or to guide his group in anyway.

Various accounts of the meeting reveal that the [REDACTED] group was equal to or greater in number than the Communist group at the meeting and succeeded in dominating the question and answer period after the speech. Afterwards, the [REDACTED] group stood outside and it was one informant's opinion that they were recording names and license numbers of persons in attendance.

JFF/  
(2)

100-24754-14

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 14 1961	
FBI - SEATTLE	

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, SEATTLE

b6  
b7C

DATE: 2/14/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
Bellingham, Wash.

On 2/14/61, [REDACTED] the Bellingham Herald, advised he has received correspondence from members of the John Birch Society criticizing the Herald for not covering the RICHARD MORFORD speech at the Aftermath Club, Bellingham, on 2/3/61. The correspondence takes the attitude that the Herald did the community a disservice in not helping to alert the people to the Communist menace. [REDACTED] said his attitude actually is that the FBI is capable of dealing with the Communists and it is possible that activist citizen groups may be more of a hindrance than a help in the fight against Communism. He added that the John Birch Society is becoming something of a problem to him because of the volume of correspondence ~~xx~~ its members send to the newspaper.

JFF/  
(1)

100-24484-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 15 1961	
FBI—SEATTLE	

*[Signature]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

1015 Second Avenue  
Seattle 4, Washington  
February 16, 1961

Mount Vernon, Washington

b6  
b7C

Dear

This will acknowledge receipt of your  
letter dated February 9, 1961.

Although I would like to be of service  
to you in connection with your inquiry, I must  
inform you that information contained in the  
files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is  
classified as confidential and by direction of  
the Attorney General of the United States may  
be furnished only to duly authorized representa-  
tives of the Federal Government. You should not  
construe my inability to furnish you information  
to mean either that we do or do not possess  
pertinent data.

I am sure that upon reflection you  
will realize the necessity and advisability  
of such a policy.

I appreciate the motives which prompted  
your letter and am sure that you will be able  
to arrive at the proper evaluation of your question  
by giving the matter considered thought and by  
carefully studying the aims, purposes and activities  
of the group in which you are interested.

1 - Addressee  
1 - Seattle (100-24754)  
CHD:kl  
(2)

*CHD*

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

16



did.

Thank you for writing to me as you

Very truly yours

J. E. Milnes  
Special Agent in Charge

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-10441)

2/20/61

SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

ROBERT A. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Re Seattle letter 1/23/61 relative to activities  
of The John Birch Society in the vicinity of Bellingham,  
Washington.

On 2/3/61 RICHARD MORFORD of the National Council  
For American-Soviet Friendship, was the principal speaker  
at a meeting in Bellingham, Washington sponsored by the  
Aftermath Club. On the morning of 2/3/61 our Resident  
Agent at Bellingham was contacted by [redacted] Organizer  
for a local chapter of The John Birch Society, who advised  
that he and a group of local citizens, presumably members  
of The John Birch Society, were going to attend the meeting  
at which MORFORD was scheduled to speak. [redacted] asked  
if the FBI had any suggestions as to what his group might  
do at the meeting, or should refrain from doing. He was,  
of course, informed that we would make no comments or  
suggestions regarding such a question.

b6  
b7c

Subsequent to this meeting of the Aftermath  
Club, informants and sources have told us that the group  
led by [redacted] was equal or greater in number than the  
pro-Communist adherents and that [redacted] group succeeded  
in dominating the question-and-answer period after MORFORD's  
speech. Informants have also told us that members of  
[redacted] group were observed outside the building where  
the meeting was held, apparently recording the identity  
of persons and/or the automobile license numbers of  
individuals who attended the meeting.

2 - Bureau (REG)  
① - Seattle

CHD/jpv  
(3)

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

17

SE 100-24754

In this same regard, the [redacted] of the "Bellingham Herald," a local newspaper of general circulation, advised that he has received correspondence from members of The John Birch Society subsequent to the MORFORD speech on 2/3/61 criticizing the Herald for not covering this speech. The [redacted] has stated that the correspondence he received from members of The John Birch Society has taken the attitude that the Herald did the community a disservice in failing to alert the people to the Communist implications of MORFORD's appearance. The [redacted] who is very cooperative with this office, explained that his attitude has always been that the FBI is capable of dealing with the Communists and he feels that any activist citizen groups might be more of a hindrance than a help in the fight against Communists.

b6  
b7c

This is being furnished to the Bureau for the purpose of indicating the extent of the activities of The John Birch Society in the vicinity of Bellingham, Washington.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

TO : SAC, SEATTLE

DATE: 3/2/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Attached is a letter from [REDACTED] Manson, Washington, stating that a chapter of the JOHN BIRCH Society had recently been formed in Chelan, Washington. [REDACTED] requested information regarding the possibility of this society being a subversive organization.

On February 14, 1961, the writer stopped to see [REDACTED] who lives on a ranch northwest of Manson, which is a small town 8 or 10 miles west of Chelan. The writer advised [REDACTED] that information in the Bureau files was of a confidential nature and we could not disclose what information was in the files regarding the JOHN BIRCH Society nor even whether or not the files contained any mention of that organization.

[REDACTED] stated that she had no grounds for suspicion of the organization but just wanted to check.

## LEAD

SEATTLE DIVISION  
At Seattle, Washington

It is suggested that a headquarter's City agent prepare a memorandum for the Bureau advising of the fact that a chapter of the captioned organization has been formed in Chelan, Washington.

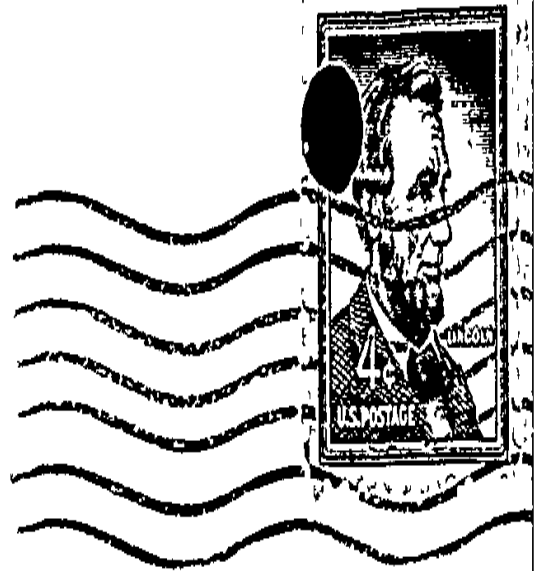
② - JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
RJL/dap  
(2) *dap*

*Let Bureau*

100-24754-18

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 2 1961	
FBI - SEATTLE	

*CLB*



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

*Federal Bureau of Investigation*

*Field Office*

*Wenatchee, Washington*

b6

b7C

  
*Manson, Washington*



Manson, Washington

Jan. 11, 1961

b6  
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

Field Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Granatke, Washington

Dear Sir:

I attended a meeting last night in  
Chelan of that city's Chapter (newly  
formed) of the John Birch Society.  
It was an interesting meeting and  
one attended by some of Chelan's  
leading citizens.

Before the evening was over  
I had decided that if it was  
as it appeared then I would be-  
come a member of the Society,

so I paid them \$1.00 for a right and  
have regretted not checking with the  
F.B.I. this morning to be sure  
that I have not become affiliated  
with a subversive organization.

I really do not feel that there  
is any question about the sincerity  
of the John Birch Society and am  
almost certain that it actually is  
an organization to prevent and  
not advance the Communist cause,  
but am checking with you to make  
absolutely certain.

Hoping to hear from you at  
your earliest possible convenience  
I am -

Sincerely yours,

b6  
b7C



DIRECTOR, FBI (62-10441) (REG)

3/7/61

SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

ROBERT A. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY);

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

b6  
b7C For the Bureau's information, this is to advise  
that a chapter of The John Birch Society has been formed  
at Chelan, Washington. The Seattle Office was so advised  
by [redacted] Manson, Washington, who was seeking  
information regarding the character of the organization.  
[redacted] of course, was informed of the confidential  
nature of our files.

- 2 - Bureau (REG)
- ① - Seattle

CHD/jpv  
(3)

*CHD*

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized *JS*  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

100-24754-191

SAC, Seattle (100-6239)

March 2, 1961

Director, FBI (100-146964)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN -  
SOVIET FRIENDSHIP  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Re Seattle airtels 1-13-61, 2-6-61 and Seattle letter dated 2-20-61 captioned "Robert A. Welch, Jr., Information Concerning, (Internal Security), The John Birch Society."

A review of referenced material indicates that the Seattle Office was in a position to institute counter-intelligence measures during the visit of Richard Norford in the territory covered by the Seattle Office. It is noted in Seattle letter dated 2-20-61 relative to the activities of the John Birch Society in the vicinity of Bellingham, Washington, that the [redacted] "Bellingham Herald" is characterized as very cooperative with the Seattle Office. It is obvious that such a relationship could have been effectively used in connection with a counterintelligence proposal if Seattle had been alert to this possibility.

b6  
b7c

You are instructed to use a greater degree of alertness in the future in order that such opportunities will be fully explored and utilized.

① - Seattle (100-24754)

100-24754-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 6 1961	
FBI - SEATTLE	

Sedro Woolley, Wash.  
February 15, 1961

Dear Sir:

There are several chapters of what is called "The John Birch Society" being organized in this area. This society is being led by a Robert Welch, Jr. It is claiming to be anti-Communist and is working towards a million Membership. Its slogan of purpose is to work for less government, more responsibility on the people and a better world! This Mr. Welch is to be the one who determines who will be area leaders and what work is to be done by the chapters and its members. The dues are to be \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women. Also they hope for extra contributions from those who can afford it as well as buying their various publications. They are encouraging lifetime memberships of \$1000.

They seem to be giving out quite a bit of literature criticizing the National Council of Churches as being Communist or at least Communist influenced. The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran is a member of the NCC; this is the church of which I am a member of so I am very much concerned.

Could you give me any information on Robert Welch, on the John Birch Society and the National Council of Churches in relation to Communism.

I would also like to know what anti-communist organizations are truly worthwhile.

Respectfully yours, *[Signature]*

b6  
b7C

Sedro Woolley, Washington

100-24754-21

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
FEB 14 1961	
FBI - SEATTLE	

*[Signature]*

1015 Second Avenue  
Seattle 4, Washington  
February 16, 1961

[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

Sedro Woolley, Washington

Dear [Redacted]:

This will acknowledge receipt of your  
letter dated February 15, 1961.

Although I would like to be of service to  
you, I must inform you that all information contained  
in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is  
classified as confidential and by order of the Attorney  
General of the United States may be made available  
only to duly authorized representatives of the Federal  
Government. It will not be possible, therefore, to  
accede to your request for information regarding the  
individual and/or organization mentioned.

I must caution you also that my inability  
to provide you with any data should not be construed  
to mean either that we do or do not have pertinent  
information concerning this matter. I am sure upon  
reflection you will realize both the necessity and  
advisability of our policy.

I understand the motives which prompted your  
inquiry and want to thank you for writing to me as  
you did.

Very truly yours,

1 - Addressee  
(1) - Seattle

J. E. MILNES  
Special Agent in Charge

CHD/jpv  
(2)

SE 100-24754

*CHD*

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

100-24754-22

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

TO : SAC, SEATTLE

DATE: 3/7/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Former SI

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
Info Concerning  
Bellingham, Wash.b6  
b7C  
b7D~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

[REDACTED] was encountered, by chance, on the street in Bellingham on the evening of 3/6/61 by the writer and SA JOSEPH P. MACFARLAND, at which time he stated he was active in anti-Communist matters in Bellingham. He mentioned that he was connected with the John Birch Society and related that [REDACTED] and was doing a job in trying to inform the people in Bellingham about Communism.

[REDACTED] sought to elicit from Agents an expression of concern regarding Communist infiltration and activities at Western Washington College of Education. He sought to intimate that the college was more or less a target for the Communists and when he was asked as to whether he had any specific information about any of the students or other people at the college being members of the Communist Party he replied in the negative. He did, however, state that he had a few young people who attended some meetings and were being guided by him in their activities.

He mentioned the recent RICHARD MORFORD meeting at the Aftermath Club and stated that it was completely different than in the old days because this "we" had a lot of people there who dominated the discussion period after the speech and asked MORFORD a lot of embarrassing questions.

[REDACTED] was advised by Agents that the FBI was interested in people who were active members of the Communist Party and he was solicited to refer to the Bellingham RA any information which he received concerning CP activities in this area. Inasmuch as [REDACTED] sought to put words in Agents mouths as to the existence of Communist activity on the campus at the local college he was advised that often what appears as some left wing statement by people on the campus might be taken out of context in connection with some research activity by college people and that that, in itself, would not indicate that such person was a Communist.

(2)  
JPF&JF/Ois  
80-135

160-24754-23

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It was suggested to [ ] that the FBI did not, on the basis of one statement or on the basis on any statement that might be taken out of context in connection with a research project establish that a person was a Communist and that he wellx knew that the FBI would have to establish by independent investigation the fact that a person was a Communist on the basis of his activites, speeches, membership and participation in subversive organizations.

[ ] sought to elicit from Agents an expression of opinion of the John Birch Society and he was advised that ~~xxxxxx~~ the FBI could take no position which would indicate sympathy or lack of sympathy for that organization. He ~~xxxxxx~~ also asked if ~~xx~~ the Agents could, at times, "feed him information" on individuals so that he might assist the FBI in the suppression of Communism. The impossibility of such an arrangement was explained to him and it was reiterated that the FBI, having the responsibility for Internal Security, would be happy to received any information regarding subversion, but that dissemination of such information by the FBI could by made only to government agencies authorized to receive such information.

TRUE COPY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

[Redacted]  
Poulsbo, Wn.  
March 3, 1961

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

b6  
b7c

Dear Sir:

I have heard, that a group calling themselves  
"John Burch Society" are active in Bremerton, Wn. They  
claim to be fighting Communism, but I could not get that OK'd  
through the sources I've tried, so would appreciate any literature,  
etc. on them.

Also, I have been unable to get anything on the  
American Civil Liberties Committee - except that members from  
this Society have said it is subversive.

If I am out of line, asking for information on these  
groups, I'll be happy to have you inform to that effect.

We do have faith and trust in you and our F. B. I.

Yours truly,

/s/

[Redacted Signature]

P. S. Why can't the F. B. I. Office here  
give me the good or bad of John Burch Society?

B

100-24754-24  
SEARCHED ..... INDEXED .....  
SERIALIZED ..... FILED .....  
MAR 15 1961  
FBI - SEATTLE  
[Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

March 13, 1961

[Redacted]  
Foulsbo, Washington

b6  
b7C

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of March 3, 1961, has been received, and I am most appreciative of your expressions of confidence in this Bureau.

I regret that I am unable to be of assistance to you concerning the matter of your inquiry. In carrying out its investigative responsibilities, the FBI does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, individual or publication. I hope you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subjects of your inquiry.

In view of your concern about communism, I am enclosing some material which may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

Enclosures (6)

① - Seattle - Enclosure *re: [unclear]*

*Deford.  
what file.*

100-24752-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAR 15 1961	
FBI - SEATTLE	

*[Signature]*



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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, SEATTLE [ ]

b2

b6

b7C

b7D

DATE: 3/20/61

FROM : [ ] COMPLAINTS

SUBJECT: [ ]

Captioned individual came to the office on this date seeking information regarding the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY which he has been asked to join. He was given no information and it was explained to him why the FBI cannot furnish information or express an opinion.

[ ] then spoke in regards to an individual, name unknown, [ ] who visited Russia during the Spring of 1960. [ ] stated that since his return unsub has purchased a Cadillac and several pieces of land in the Kent-Auburn area. [ ] felt that perhaps the above warrants looking into. He was thanked for his interest.

1 - File

RWL:

100-24744-26

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FBI - SEATTLE	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

TO : SAC, SEATTLE

DATE: 3/23/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
BELLINGHAM, WASH.

During March 1961 inquiries as to the FBI's approval or disapproval of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY were made of the writer by the following persons:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

All of these persons were advised that we could make no comment indicating approval or disapproval of the captioned organization. The volume of inquiries received indicates that interest in this organization in the Bellingham area is very great.

[REDACTED] advised on 3/22/61 that MORO JEWELL, who is associated with the John Birch Society, recently made a speech before the Lions Club in Ferndale on Communism and [REDACTED] to line up other groups to hear JEWELL. [REDACTED] stated that while he is strongly anti-Communist he tends to view undocumented information with suspicion and therefore was skeptical of [REDACTED] JEWELL. JEWELL made such statements as: The Communists have indicated that 1965 or 1966 is a good time for taking over the U.S. since the U.S. will be "ripe" for it by then. JEWELL said this and other statements he made could be documented, but made no effort at offering documentation.

(1)  
JFF/

100-24754-27

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FBI - SEATTLE	

(D) THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F), dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Robert H. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign. SAC Letter 60-5 (C), dated January 26, 1960, advised that in December, 1958, Welch created an organization called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world."

Recently, a printer in Santa Barbara, California, advised he had received an order from JBS to print 10,000 copies of my poster, "What You Can Do To Fight Communism." The JBS also requested the printer to print an addition on the poster to the effect that this statement was being distributed under the auspices of the JBS. We have advised the printer that the FBI has not given approval for JBS to reproduce the poster nor could the FBI approve of the addition to the poster reflecting its distribution by JBS.

In view of this irresponsible organization's attempt to capitalize on the FBI's prestige, no Bureau publications of any kind are to be made available to JBS or to any of its representatives. You should be alert to the possibility that this group may attempt to reproduce Bureau publications and distribute them giving the impression that the FBI sanctions JBS. Immediately advise the Bureau of any such information coming to your attention. Further, any requests by JBS to reproduce Bureau publications should be turned down.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover

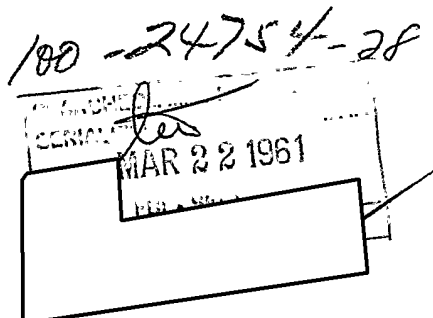
Director

2/21/61

C LETTER NO. 61-14

- 4 -

b6  
b7C



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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC

DATE: 3-21-61

b6  
b7C

FROM : SA Joseph P. Mac Farland

100-24754

SUBJECT: John Birch Society  
IS

[redacted] by telephone at 11.45 A. M. this day called to inquire about the above named organization. She was informed that the files of the FBI are confidential and for the official use of the Government. She said that she understood this situation and then she went on to inquire whether Ex Agents of the FBI are under obligation not to reveal information which they received while in the employ of the FBI.

She was informed that Special Agents and former Special Agents of the FBI are required to hold in confidence information which they received during the course of their employment with the FBI.

[redacted] then mentioned that there is a former Special Agent of the FBI employed at [redacted] name not recalled by her, who stated at a dinner party that he knew that Professor [redacted] of the University of Washington was a Communist as he had read the file on the said Professor. Should [redacted] learn the name of this Ex Agent she will notify this office, she remarking that she did not believe that the said Ex Agent should make such remarks.

(1)

100-24754-29

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - SEATTLE	

## ORGANIZATIONS

### The Americanists

Among the U.S. brotherhoods dedicated to the fight against Communism, nothing is quite like the John Birch Society. Except for an elite corps of leaders, its members are persons of high social standing.

Their names are held by the society in strictest secrecy. Its cells, of 20 to 30 members apiece, take orders from society headquarters, promote Communist-style front organizations that do not use the John Birch name. Carefully avoiding normal channels of political action, the society accepts the hard-boiled, dictatorial direction of one man who sees defilement as a "perennial fraud" and estimates that the U.S. is 40% to 60% Communist-controlled. In other times, other places, the John Birch "Americanists"—as they call themselves—might seem a tiresome, comic-opera joke. But already the society admits to cells in 40 states, and its partisans have made it an anonymous and unsettling presence in scores of U.S. communities.

In Wichita, Kansas, student leaders of the society are awarded to their cell leader of any "Communist" influence.

noted in a 1960 book by a prominent labor law attorney, and a book of guilt. A Wichita businessman who planned to make a modest contribution to a University of Wichita fund was dissuaded because members of the society were demanding that certain professors and books be thrown out. "My business would be wrecked," said he, "if those people got on the phone and kept on yelling that I am a Communist because I give money to the school."

Society members in Nashville, Tenn., started telephone campaigns to warn homeowners that some of their neighbors were suspected Reds. The project with current top priority is the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren, and activists in a dozen cities range from the "spontaneous" circulation of petitions to a rash of letters to newspapers, and a "PEACH EARL WARREN" banner hung across the main street of Pampa, Texas (and taken down by the police a few hours later).

The Red Plot. All society activity lies under the firm thumb of a balding, deceptively mild-mannered, retired businessman from Belmont, Mass., named Robert Welch. Son of a North Carolina farmer, Baptist Welch, 61, spent 25 years in executive with Cambridge's famed toy-making James O. Welch Co. (ruined by his brother). After the war, Welch went on to bone up on Communist literature, eventually he decided that such

schemes as social security and federal income tax laws were part of a Red plot to ready the U.S. for Soviet conquest. Welch left candy for fulltime anti-Communist pamphleteering in 1957. He founded the John Birch Society the next year, naming it for a U.S. Navy captain killed by Chinese Communist guerrillas in 1941.

Welch's *Mein Kampf* is a masterpiece of invective called *The Politician*. Shown only to close friends, the book is now almost withdrawn from circulation, largely because its judgments on contemporary leaders repelled more people than they attracted. Some Welchian estimates:

"The Eisenhower brothers: '... Mr. Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior and boss within the Communist Party . . . For [the former President], there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and his actions. That word is treason.'"

CIA Director Allen Dulles: "The most respected and untouchable supporter of Communism, next to Eisenhower himself, is in Washington."

The late John Foster Dulles: "A Communist agent."

Right-Wing Names. For public consumption, Welch has kept his vitriol well enough in check to avoid libel suits. A prolific author, he has turned out reams of Red-baiting copy, including the *Blue Book* that guides the society's actions. He puts out the monthly *American Opinion* as well as a bulletin that informs all



Boston Herald-Traveler

LEADER WELCH

His word for the Eisenhowers: treason.

dues-paying (\$24 a year for men, \$12 for women) members of the society's monthly aims. Despite the ill fame of *The Politician*, Welch has been highly praised as a freedom fighter by a horde of familiar right-wing names, e.g., Actor Adolphe Menjou, Lawyer Clarence Manion, ex-Diplomat Spruille Braden, who grace the society's council and have the right to appoint his successor.

Not all conservatives are so sanguine about Welch. Many object to the society's contempt for dissent from its views, feel that its militant words and thoughts are barely a goose step away from the formation of goon squads. "This is the kind of thing that does violence to everything we're trying to accomplish," says one Chicago conservative who backed away from Birchism after a glimpse at *The Politician*. "It siphons a lot of well-meaning, respectable people off into a lunatic fringe run by Welch, at the same time giving anti-Communist efforts a black eye. It hurts us much more than it helps us."

TIME MAGAZINE  
March 10, 1961

P. 21-22

100-24754-30

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MAR 23 1961	
F.B.I. SEATTLE	

648

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC SEATTLE (100-24754-2)

DATE: 3/29/61

FROM : SA J. FRANCIS SULLIVAN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INTERNAL SECURITY-C

E 6

[redacted] Mercer Island, Adams

2-0563 telephonically contacted the office at 8:50PM this date.

He said he was [redacted] of the above organization.

He said that he had given an interview to [redacted]

[redacted] on the organization. He said that he apparently said things that made people mad because he had been receiving crank calls all night. He quoted some as "Why don't you go back to Russia" and "you won't be [redacted] much longer". He was calling to inquire what action he could take. He was informed that this matter was not within FBI jurisdiction and he might want to contact the Telephone Company about the calls. He then expressed concern about his telephone being tapped. He offered no evidence that this was so but expressed concern. He was again referred to the Telephone company.

ACTION: NONE

JFS  
(1)

100-24754-31

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MAR 30 1961	
FBI - SEATTLE	

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Seattle (100-24754)

DATE: 3/29/61

FROM : SA H. Edward McNulty

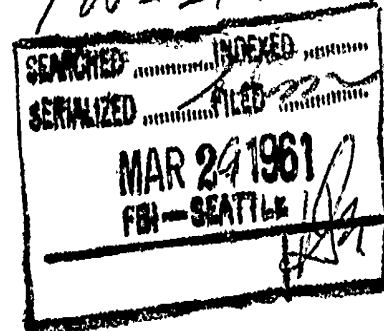
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

SUBJECT: John Birch Society  
Information Concerning.b6  
b7c

At 11:30 a.m., 3/29/61, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Seattle, MU 2-3488, called the writer and asked if we knew anything about the captioned subject. He was advised that the FBI could not make any statement one way or the other in view of the position of being strictly an investigative organization only. He understood and claimed that all he was interested in knowing was that whether or not it was subversive. He was advised that a recent issue of TIME magazine carried an article on this group.

Action: NO<sub>n</sub>e.(1)  
HEM/

## 'MEAN AND DIRTY' Extremist Society Stirs Controversy



ROBERT  
WELCH

The semisecret John Birch Society has stirred Congress and many communities by its free-swinging attacks on whatever it considers Communism. Its founder, Robert Welch, calls former President Eisenhower and others Communists.

An extensive investigation of the John Birch Society has been completed by the United Press International. The findings will be presented in a series of articles beginning tomorrow in

**The Seattle Times**

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

SEATTLE TIMES

MAR 28 1961

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## ~~John Birch Society~~

### Leader's Views

BY BARRY FARRELL

Post-Intelligencer Staff Writer

(Second in a series)

TO ROBERT Welch and his followers in the John Birch Society, all that Americans have grown used to is hopelessly decayed with Communist infiltration.

Reading Welch's reflections on America or talking to P. C. Beezley of Mercer Island, the co-ordinator of John Birch activities in Washington State, is a disquieting experience—like climbing aboard a sight-seeing bus, only to discover its route is restricted to the alleys where crimes are planned.

"Democracy," Welch has written, "is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud."

To replace it, Welch has created a monolithic body so authoritarian that, as Republican Senator Milton Young has observed, it is "barely a goose step way from the goon squads."

The society's views are so extreme, its attack on America and a great many Americans so severe and unsparing and its plan of action so fearfully drastic that it would most likely be dismissed as a fanatical splinter of the extreme right if it were not for the number of influential men who have lent their name and energies to its cause.

Welch, 62, was for many years president of the James O. Welch Co., a giant candy company with factories in three cities and subsidiary sales corporations in five others, including Seattle. He has served as a bank director and was a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years.

For five years he has edited and published a monthly journal called "American Opinion." Since the society was formed, the magazine has become its megaphone and, in bulletins to chapters, Welch constantly urges members to subscribe and study the ultra-conservative doctrine the magazine preaches.

#### Beezley's Career

P. C. Beezley's career in business was also an impressive one. He was born in Iowa, was graduated from the University of Washington in 1917 and has lived on Mercer Island since 1928. He formed the Washington Asphalt Co. with two partners in 1931 and retired as its president in 1954. His associates in business all speak of him as gifted, loyal and energetic in his work.

Beezley, who is known to everyone as "Cap," lives with his wife in a genteel and gracious home on Mercer Island's west shore. His work as the John Birch co-ordinator has crowded his home with filing cabinets, books, tape recording equipment and office machinery.

He has "2,000 long-hair records" on a wall behind his cluttered desk and a bookcase filled with books for which he has invented a tricky slogan:

"I have read some of all of those books and all of most of them."

He smokes endlessly and chews gum with a steady roll that makes his cigarettes dance in wide circles. He coughs deeply and often and works from morning until midnight.

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

SEATTLE POST  
INTELLIGENCER

MAR 30 1961

PAGE.....17 COL.....4

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FBI—SEATTLE	

100-24754-34

Beezley and Welch have impressive colleagues. Twelve of the 26 men whom the society lists on its council are listed also in Who's Who in America. Two former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers are among them and so is a former U.S. Ambassador, two retired generals, the former dean of the Notre Dame Law School, a former Collector of Internal Revenue and a former Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

J. B. Matthews, former chief investigator for Senator McCarthy's Committee, is associate editor of American Opinion and a strong voice in John Birch affairs. Matthews resigned from the committee in 1953 after he wrote in a magazine article that clergymen were "the largest single group supporting the communist apparatus" in America.

But Welch and Beezley seem willing to rely on Matthews' judgment all the same:

"While I of course can make mistakes, too," Welch once wrote, "I know from the way my opinion of various characters, formed independently, has been proved to coincide with the opinion of J. B. Matthews . . . that I have a fairly sensitive and accurate nose in this area."

Welch's nose led him to call President Eisenhower, the Dulles brothers, Chief Justice Earl Warren and scores of other American leaders either Communists out and out or simply dupes of the Communists.

"Maybe Eisenhower's too dumb to be a Communist," he once said by way of retraction.

### 'Job To Do'

This disenchantment with the path America has followed since 1896, say, has led to Welch's distrust of "democracy," and he has avoided democratic concepts in the organization of his society. Beezley describes them as "begged, borrowed or stolen" ideas:

"We're not proud," he has said. "We have a job to do."

"We've taken the Catholic idea of hierarchy, the reading room idea from the Christian Scientists and the Communist idea of cells."

Welch describes John Birch this way:

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels . . . it is imperative that all the strength we can muster be subject to smoothly functioning direction from the top . . ."

"The men who join the John Birch Society during the next few months or few years are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway . . ."

Whatever it may be, the aims of the society and its method of operation have caught the imagination of a good many Americans. In the Seattle area, Beezley says, enrollment is "encouraging, though not completely satisfying."

"We're doing very nicely," he said with a broad and confident smile.

(Tomorrow: John Birch activities—in Seattle and in the nation.)

## **U.S. EXTREMISM**

# **Birch Society Stirs Furor As Red-Hunter**

*The John Birch Society is a semisecret organization with a noble aim: Fighting Communism. But its methods have stirred controversy in many United States cities. A special reporting team has investigated the organization, its purposes, operations and its opposition. This is the first of three dispatches on its findings.*

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU  
United Press International

Residents of Santa Barbara, Calif., were in for a surprise when they stepped out last February 26 to pick up their Sunday newspapers. In that quiet and beautiful city of about 60,000, a respected fellow citizen had discovered what he felt was an outrage.

"The editor and publisher of The News-Press is in his 85th year," began a two-column editorial on the front page.



ROBERT WELCH

"His entire life has been spent in this community....He lived when conditions were rugged. When West was West and men were men. He lived during periods when if a man called our President... and others at the head of our government, traitors, they were made to answer. Such slanders often called for a visit from a courageous and irate group which brought with them a barrel of tar and a few feathers..."

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

SEATTLE TIMES

MAR 29 1961

PAGE 1 COL 7

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MAR 31 1961	
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100-24754-85

COPY SENT TO BUREAU

#### THOMAS MORE STORKE

rancher and citrus grower, owner of a newspaper since 1900, briefly a senator, regent of the University of California, was taking a stand against the John Birch Society and its founder and leader, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

Welch, 61, retired from a candy firm four years ago to devote his life to fighting Communism. What bothered Editor Storke was the way Welch was fighting it.

In a letter written before he set up the society late in 1958, Welch told friends that President Eisenhower, his brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, were members of the Communist underground.

BUT THE STATEMENT about Mr. Eisenhower was not all Storke had on his mind. In Santa Barbara itself, blessed with the comforts of both nature and material wealth, lives a member of the society's 26-man council, Dr. Granville Knight, a physician.

Several active chapters of the semisecret society were studying Communism at private meetings and looking around town for Communists to expose.

"The secret Communist looks and acts just like anybody else, only more so," Welch had instructed them in the society's "Blue Book." He could be anybody you know. In fact, Welch said, one of his prime suspects is "one of the nicest men you ever met. Most of them are."

Exposure of such persons, even through "mean and dirty" techniques, Welch said, is one of the most effective means of shocking the American people awake in time to save themselves from Communism.

It was to protest these tactics that Editor Storke raised his editorial voice.

"THE NEWS-PRESS condemns the tactics that have brought anonymous telephone calls of denunciation to Santa Barbarans in recent weeks from members of the John Birch Society or their sympathizers," Storke's editorial said.

"The News-Press condemns the pressures on wealthy residents, who fear and abhor Communism, to contribute money to an organization whose leader has said that 'for reasons you will understand, there can be no accounting of funds.' ...

"The John Birch Society already has done a grave disservice to Santa Barbara by arousing suspicions and a mutual distrust among men of good will. The organization's adherents, sincere in their opposition to Communism, do not seem to understand the dangers of the totalitarian dynamite with which they are tampering."

What is the real nature of this relatively new group on the American political scene? Political scientists would classify it as ultraconservative. The controversy is over whether its tactics are compatible with American democratic principles.

IT IS, IN itself, an authoritarian society. (Editor Storke's adjective was "totalitarian".) Welch does not say the United States should have a similarly authoritarian form of government. But he is far from sold on the form we now have.

The political concept of a democracy, he regards as a "weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

By Welch's political standards, Dwight Eisenhower is a Communist, and so are many others in high government places, past and present. These are standards not everyone accepts.

SANTA BARBARA was not the first community to have been torn by the society's activities. The organization has become embroiled in controversy in many states, including Wisconsin, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, California and North Dakota.

Articles and editorial comment on the organization have been published by The Chicago Daily News, The Milwaukee Journal, The Louisville Courier-Journal, The Boston Herald, The Los Angeles Times, The Racine, Wis. Journal-Times, Time magazine and The Nation.

The amount of secrecy surrounding its operations has varied considerably, and Welch has given up his fight to avoid publicity.

AT ISSUE BETWEEN the society and many who might otherwise share Welch's conservative political and economic views is his persistent reasoning that everything he personally considers wrong is a Communist plot.

At issue between the society and those who condemn it is the tendency of its activities to suppress, if not the right, at least the respectability, of dissent.

(Birch Society operates in the name of a slain missionary. Page 4; Mercer Island organizer says the group is doing "very nicely" in Washington State. Page 5.)

## U.S. EXTREMISM: Birch Society Invokes Name of Slain Baptist Missionary

By United Press International.

John Birch had nothing to do with the controversial right-wing group that bears his name.

Birch was a young, fundamentalist Baptist missionary from Georgia who served as an intelligence officer in China in the Second World War. He was killed ten days after V-J Day by Chinese Communists. He was 27 when he died.

Robert Welch, the Boston industrialist who is the power behind the Birch Society, never heard of Birch until after his death. Welch has researched and written his life story.

Welch has memorialized Birch as "probably the first American casualty in that third world war between Communists and the ever-shrinking 'free world' which is still being waged against us." And when he came to found a Communist-fighting organization, he called it the John Birch Society.

In Birch's name, members of the society are asked to write letters to congressmen and others, operate in "front" organizations and through established community groups such as P.T.A.'s and Chambers of Commerce to push campaigns conceived by Welch as anti-Communist.

These campaigns include movements to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, to repeal the income-tax law, to rout the social gospel from the churches, to oppose the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, foreign aid, the United Nations, and cultural, or any other, exchanges with Russia.

AT HER FARM home near Macon, Ga., Birch's mother, Mrs. George S. Birch, said she and her husband are "heartily in accord" with Welch's organization "and we are proud for it to bear our son's name."

Welch also is a native Southerner, born in North Carolina, December 1, 1899. He was reared in what he now calls "the intellectually restricting bonds of the unusually narrow Southern Baptist fundamentalism."

Welch spent four years at the University of North Carolina, two at the Naval Academy and two at Harvard Law School before going into the candy business. He was for years vice president of the James O. Welch Co., headed by his brother, which has factories in Massachusetts and in Los Angeles.

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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the third person for society members—he has one wife, two sons, a Golden Retriever dog, and fourteen golf clubs—none of which he understands, but all of which he loves.”

Welch is an affable man who exhibits in his writings a sense of humor, love of poetry and wide knowledge of history and literature.

Welch was a director of the National Association of Manufacturers for seven years, serving also as a vice president of the organization. Three former presidents of the N. A. M. are or have been on the Birch Society's council.

On January 1, 1957, Welch's biography says, he “gave up most of his business responsibilities—and most of his income—in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to the anti-Communist cause.”

THE JOHN BIRCH Society was founded almost two years later, on December 9, 1958, at Indianapolis, after Welch delivered a two-day speech to 11 men he had invited to hear it.

That speech is today the “Blue Book” of the society, the official statement of its aims and methods. It is supplemented by monthly bulletins to members and the magazine American Opinion, which Birch founded before the society and of which he is editor.

The message and aim is: “Less government, more responsibility and a better world.”

Welch quite literally wants to repeal the 20th Century. He views its trend toward “collectivism” not simply as a mistake but as a sinister conspiracy to change the economic and political structure of the United States so that this nation can be merged with the Soviet Union without a fight.

“YOU HAVE ONLY a few more years,” Welch told his listeners at Indianapolis. “We are living . . . in such a fool's paradise as the people of China lived 20 years ago.”

“The danger is almost entirely internal,” Welch said, “from Communist influences right in our midst and treason right in our government.”

The idea that the nation must mobilize its resources to combat the external danger of Soviet might is, in Welch's view, a part of the Communist plot.

“In other words, under the guise of fighting Communism, we are being stampeded into the biggest jump ever toward, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp.”

Welch would repeal virtually all of the social and economic legislation of the past 30 years.

“THE GREATEST enemy of man is, and always has been, government,” Welch said.

“We are not beginning any revolution, nor even a counter-revolution in any technical sense . . .” Welch said. “Yet our determination to overthrow an entrenched tyranny is the very stuff of which revolutions are made.”

Welch warned that Communism is being slipped over on the American people so gradually and insidiously that before long “they can no longer resist the Communist conspiracy as free citizens, but can resist the Communist tyranny only by themselves becoming conspirators against established government.”

The Los Angeles Times, in an editorial signed by Otto Chandler, publisher, on March 12, saw an implication of sedition in Welch's statements. And, like many others, it deplored the identification of conservatism with extremism.

“THE TIMES believes implicitly in the conservative philosophy,” the editorial said. “It has challenged all these men and most of these institutions (which Welch attacks) on the soundness of one or more issues. But the Times does not believe that the argument for conservatism can be won—and we do believe it can be won—by smearing as enemies and traitors those with whom we sometimes disagree.”

“Subversion, whether of the left or the right, is still subversion.”

Criticism from the press is not likely to disturb Welch. He has already told his followers that “the domination of our press, television and radio by Communist influences is now so great that you simply are not allowed to learn or be reminded of the real nature of the beasts to whom we are losing.”

AN EDITORIAL in American Opinion for February said the long-insolvent Communist newspaper, The Daily Worker, quit publication because “the ‘line’ taken by The (New York) Times long ago made it unnecessary, superfluous, and probably embarrassing to The Times.”

“When you hear Welch's charges out of context . . . their absurdity is plain enough,” the Rev. John A. Crane told his congregation at Santa Barbara's Unitarian Church one February Sunday.

“But when you come upon them in the publications of the society, surrounded and supported by Welch's rich, flowing language and ideas, their absurdity is well concealed.”

“The man is a marvelously gifted demagogue . . .

“There is another factor apart from the magic of Robert Welch that lends power to the movement . . . Both Welch and his people are genuinely afraid . . . driven by an almost wild fear of a persistent and pervasive sort. Because of the peculiar nature of their understanding of what it means to be an American, everywhere they look, in our society, they see signs of an incredibly devious subversion . . .

(Next: the society's doctrine and membership)

## Birch Society Does 'Nicely' in State, Says Member Here

By MARSHALL WILSON

How is the John Birch Society doing in Washington State?

"Very nicely," according to P. C. (Cap) Beezley, 2749 60th Av. S. E., Mercer Island.

Beezley, volunteer organizer for the society in Washington, is convinced his organization is the "most efficient in America in the fight against Communism."

"HOW MANY members of the society are there in Washington?" Beezley was asked.

"No comment," Beezley replied. "Do the Communists tell you how many members they have? I think they would like nothing better than to know our strength."

Beezley has been collecting and reading volumes of anti-Communist literature and stacks of congressional reports for 12 years. He joined the John Birch Society when Robert Welch, society founder, conducted a two-day seminar in Seattle in September, 1957.

BEEZLEY SAID he joined the society because it had professional direction, and that is what is necessary to stop the Communists.

Although Beezley downgrades the importance of the number of members, the society has set a national goal of 1,000,000 members.

"Not everybody belongs in the organization," he said. "Some people are not in the position to take the smears we know we will have to take."

Time for extensive reading is one of the major qualifications for a prospective member of the John Birch Society.

"We want factual, documented information," Beezley said.

"HOW DO YOU pass on the information you find?" he was asked.

"Through meetings of the individual members," Beezley said.

Beezley added that pertinent facts then are called to the attention of the lawmakers," he answered.

The organization hopes for the day when 100,000 or 200,000 letters, on any subject, can flood the desks of congressmen within 48 hours.

THE SOCIETY follows a pattern of the Communist Party in organizing along cell units. Each cell will be broken up into other units

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when membership passes 20.  
"Where do you meet?" Beezley was asked.

"Each chapter meets a minimum of once a month," he answered. "Some are meeting more often. We meet in homes or offices—wherever is convenient."

At meetings, members are given their assignments—primarily letter-writing. One requirement is to read at least one book a month on the Communist peril.

**BEEZLEY AGAIN** and again emphasized that the aim of the society is "less government, more responsibility and a better world."

Beezley was asked about reports that there is no accounting of society funds.

"I can't say specifically, but I'll bet money it isn't true," he said.

Beezley denied that the society is secret and said the whole story is set out in the Blue Book, the organization's Bible, for sale to anyone for \$2.

Beezley denied reports that some children are asked to "snitch" on their teachers, but said:

"I don't see anything wrong in asking children to report if their teachers are teaching Communism."

Beezley is a retired Seattle businessman. He was employed by an investment-security company 20 years and was president of an asphalt company when he retired in 1954.

The John Birch Society is opposed to water fluoridation.

"It's mass medication, isn't it?" Beezley asked.

He said the enemy could easily put poison or nerve drugs in a city's water system.

**DESPITE HIS** hatred for the Communists, Beezley is not fearful of a thermonuclear war, but fears invasion from within.

"The Soviets don't want this tremendous industrial plant a pile of contaminated cinders—and they want the people who know how to run it."

Beezley acknowledged a connection between the John Birch Society and the films, "Communism on the Map" and "Operation Abolition."

"The films were financed by the National Education Program," he said. Dr. George S. Benson, president of Harding College in Searcy, Ark., is also president of that program.

"They did use some of Bob Welch's material—why shouldn't they?" he concluded.



## John Birch Society: **Alarmist Order**

A semi-secret society which has begun to appear in the news throughout the nation largely because of its extremism, in its fight against communism and its shocking characterization of many national leaders as Communists is the John Birch Society. This is the first of a series of articles on the goals, the organization, leadership and plan of action of this organization.

—BY BARRY FARRELL—

Post-Intelligencer Staff Reporter

TWO years ago, a retired candy manufacturer called a meeting of a dozen men. The men came to Indianapolis in mid-winter, drawn there by the heat of the cold war. After a two-day monologue delivered by Robert Welch, the candy maker and the founder of the John Birch Society, 12 men were forged together in a common aim: The defeat, at all costs, of international communism.

Since then the John Birch Society has spread to every state in the union. There are chapters in 35 states and scores of "home chapter" members in the others. By year's end, the society expects 100,000 members. Its goal is one million. Its size increases at a rate that doubles the total membership every four months.

### **Chapters Here**

Seattle has several chapters and there are chapters in Kent and in Renton, in Edmonds, Bellingham, Tacoma, Burlington, Sunnydale, Bellevue and other cities in the state. New chapters form almost monthly, dividing themselves like amoebae from one chapter into two whenever the membership of a chapter grows beyond 20.

The John Birch Society is on the move. The society's members are locked together by "completely authoritative controls at all levels" in hopes of presenting a strong and militant front to advance the two aims of the society: Fight communism and work for less government, more individual responsibility and a better world.

The membership, according to P. C. Beezley of Mercer Island, volunteer coordinator of John Birch activities in Washington State, runs the gamut of society—the young and old, Republican and Democrat, rich man and poor. The one thing the members have in common, Beezley has said, is fear.

"We're looking for members sufficiently aware of things to be frightened and sufficiently frightened to want to work. As soon as people talk together and get afraid, they'll start working with us."

The theme of fear runs through all the books, magazines and statements the society issues. In "The Blue Book of the John Birch Society," a primer of ultra-conservatism drawn from tape recordings made at Welch's Indianapolis convention, many pages are devoted to the importance of "shock technique" in awakening Americans to the menace of communism.

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### Grave Accusations

And, as Welch interprets it, the menace of communism is truly fearful. The past three American presidents, he has written, were either Communists or tools of the Communists.

To Welch, President Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." He also wrote of Eisenhower that "... there is only one word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

He describes President Kennedy as "the amoral man ... smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind the scenes which he will have to get ..." and a man who "can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communist aims here in the United States."

Welch has called both the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, tools of the Communists. Another "Communist dupe," Welch charges, is Chief Justice Earl Warren and Welch has made it a cardinal ambition of his society to see the day when Warren is impeached.

"The Blue Book" and Welch's own credo, a confidential book distributed to a limited number of followers called "The Politician," draw the battle lines against communism right through the heart of American society. Communists control the press, the United Nations, high posts in the government and the armed forces, leading positions in the schools and universities, at least one of every three Protestant churches and most civic organizations, Welch argues.

"The Politician" has brought considerable discomfort to many John Birch members and to Welch, himself, who argues that it has nothing to do with the society. But the tenor of its charges is found everywhere in the literature of the society and in "American Opinion," its monthly magazine.

The John Birch Society has been attacked by many national leaders for its authoritarian organization, its reckless charges against the most august and influential Americans and its plan of operations for the future. Last week former Vice President Richard Nixon warned Americans against adopting the tactics of communism to fight subversion in this country.

### Warning From Nixon

"It may at times seem unrealistic and naive to follow the rules of the game when our opponents are so unscrupulous and completely devoid of morality," Nixon wrote. "But in the end, refusing to resort to methods that are wrong not only is right, but in the long run it is the most effective way to combat an evil doctrine like communism."

But to Welch, such charges are simply part of the expected "smear," the result of what he considers the decay of Americanism in both the leaders who denounce his society and the press which broadcasts the attacks.

"When we get smeared," Beezley said the other day, "it means we're beginning to be noticed. We're beginning to hurt them (the Communists) and the smear has always been their counterattack. It's perfectly all right with us. It's a sign of our strength."

(Tomorrow: The John Birch Society—A Portrait of its Leaders.)

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## Goldwater Disagrees With Many Birch Society Ideas

LOS ANGELES, March 30.—(A.P.)—Senator Goldwater, Republican, Arizona, said today that he disagreed with many of the theories of the right-wing John Birch Society but was "impressed by the type of people in it." Goldwater said he did not agree with the society that this republic is not a fit form of government with which to fight Communism; that former president Eisenhower was a Communist; that Chief Justice Warren should be impeached or that the Communists have influenced some decisions of the Supreme Court. Goldwater said of the society: "They are anti-Communist and I don't see how we can be against that."

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# Probe Of Libel Urged

WASHINGTON, March 30.—(A.P.)—Senator Kuchel, Republican, California, asked today for an investigation of the head of the John Birch Society for what Kuchel called "a fantastic and incredible libel" against former President Eisenhower.

Kuchel said Robert Welch, retired candy manufacturer of Belmont, Mass., who founded the society, should be called before the Senate Government Operations Committee for attempts to besmirch the character of Mr. Eisenhower, Chief Justice Warren and others.

KUCHEL SAID Welch "accuses Dwight Eisenhower of being a card-carrying Communist."

"Good God!" Kuchel said, "should the American people permit this kind of spleen to be poured on a man (Mr. Eisenhower) who has dedicated his whole life to freedom?"

The John Birch Society is an organization with the declared purpose of fighting Communist infiltration. It is named for a missionary killed by the Chinese Communists.

Representative Hiestand, Republican, California, a member of the society, said he would like to see an investigation of the society by the House Committee on Un-American Activities because he believes this would dispel charges that the society is "a dictatorial fascist" organization.

CHAIRMAN WALTER, Democrat, Pennsylvania, said the latter committee has received numerous letters regarding the society. But, Walter said, the specific complaints charge wrongs against individuals "whose recourse would be action in the civil courts."

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## U. S. EXTREMISM Birch Society Distrusts Democracy

*(This is the second of three dispatches about the semi-secret John Birch Society, an organization that has created controversy across the land because of its methods of fighting Communism.)*

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU  
United Press International

At the beginning of 1961 the John Birch Society had organized one to 100 chapters in each of 34 states and the District of Columbia, according to its founder, Robert Welch of Massachusetts.

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body," Welch said in the Blue Book of the organization's doctrine.

"A republican form of government or of organization has many attractions and advantages under certain favorable conditions. But under less happy circumstances it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion and disruption. And democracy, of course, in government or organization is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud."

"The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels. No collection of debating societies is ever going to stop the Communist conspiracy."

PAUL H. TALBERT, Los Angeles insurance executive who is one of the society's council members, estimated recently that it might have 100,000 members by the end of 1961, its third year.

Welch said he wanted to raise \$1,000,000 from sources other than dues during the society's first year.

There is no public accounting of either money or membership. Dues are \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women; life memberships are \$1,000, either sex.

Appeals for additional voluntary contributions accompany virtually all mailings to members. Welch has said he draws no salary. There are 28 full-time employees at headquarters in Belmont, Mass., and 35 other salaried persons work around the country. An additional 100 persons work as volunteers.

Welch frankly has borrowed the Communist technique of setting up "front" groups for specific purposes. He acknowledged that another technique he advocates—the use of loaded questions to smear a suspect he cannot prove is a Communist—is "mean and dirty."

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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**CHAPTERS OPERATE** at widely different levels of secrecy. In North Dakota, meetings are announced on local radio stations and everybody is welcome.

The North Dakota organization, with about 400 members in 19 chapters, was active in a proposal to outlaw the federal income tax. The proposal was approved by the state's lower house but was killed in the State Senate.

In Dallas, Tex., a 32-year-old businessman member of the society estimated there were 20 chapters in Dallas and said he had heard there were 100 in Houston. Chapters are generally made up of 20 members.

There is no rule of thumb in Welch's book for members to determine on their own who is or who is not a Communist, or Communist dupe.

**"THERE ARE** ways of sizing up both individuals and organizations in this battle which come only with experience, a knowledge of the interlocking pieces and personalities and a feel for the way the Communists work," says the Blue Book.

"And while of course I can make mistakes too, I know from the way my opinion of various characters, formed independently, has then proved to coincide with the opinion of J. B. Matthews . . . that I have a fairly sensitive and accurate nose in this area . . . so we do not intend to be frustrated by indecisions of this nature."

Matthews is an associate editor of Welch's magazine, American Opinion, as well as the standard by which Welch checks his nose for Communists.

Matthews resigned as chief investigator to Senator Joseph R. McCarthy's Senate committee in 1953 after appearance in The American Mercury of Matthews' article stating that clergymen were "the largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus" in this country.

The "most important activity" of the John Birch Society at the moment is its campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

**IN WELCH'S** view, the Supreme Court's school decision and all the racial troubles in the South have been brought about by Communists to foment civil war. "Civil rights" is a Communist slogan, "an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they used in China," he has told members.

Congressmen, recently made aware of Welch's old accusation that former President Eisenhower was a Communist, are already looking askance at what they describe variously as a "trickle" or a "flood" of "impeach Warren" mail.

Representative Edgar W. Hiestand, Republican, California, is listed by the society as a member of its "committee of indorsers." Hiestand said he has been a member of the society for several years.

Representative Scherer, Republican, Ohio, a member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, also listed as an indorser, said he was not a member of the society, but "I look with favor on it."

**THE SENATE** internal security subcommittee is replying to inquiries with a form letter over the signature of

its chairman, Senator Eastland, Democrat, Mississippi. It reads: "The John Birch Society, about which you asked, is known to be a conservative anti-Communist organization officially. We are happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization. Very truly yours."

All senators are not so sure. The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, told the Senate:

**"Something ought to be done to lay the facts before the American people so they can judge this organization for what it is."**

The society's attack on the nation's churches has brought it to the attention of more communities—and has more bitterly divided those communities—than any of its other activities.

**THIS IS AN ATTACK** that has been made for years by some religious fundamentalists and economic conservatives. They see as both heresy and Communism the preachings of a "social gospel" which attempts to apply Biblical teachings to secular and political problems.

The residents of Arizona are getting two barrels at the moment. It is one of the Birch Society's "biggest" states. And it is receiving similarly concentrated attention from the American Council of Christian Churches, a fundamentalist group which has warred for many years against the larger National Council of Churches.

The division has been intensified by controversy over the motion picture, "Operation Abolition," which is being promoted by the Birch Society, among others, and which the National Council of Churches, also among others, has recommended not be shown without presentation of serious questions about its accuracy.

The Rev. Carl McIntire, a defrocked Presbyterian minister who is a spokesman for the American Council, used two nation-wide radio programs to reply to a defense of the National Council issued by 122 Phoenix clergymen.

**IN SANTA BARBARA**, members of the First Presbyterian Church received through the mail a Birch Society "questionnaire" attacking its own church leadership and that of the National Council. The Rev. G. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and a former National Council president, flew to Santa Barbara to accuse the Birch Society in a sermon, his text: "Thou shalt not bear false witness."

In Amarillo, Tex., Brig. Gen. William L. Lee, retired commander of the Amarillo Air Force Base, is head of the local Birch organization. He acknowledged that the society is stirring up friction in local churches.

The Amarillo Public Library refused to yield to the Birch Society's demand that it call off a Great Decision.



J. B. MATTHEWS      CARL MCINTIRE      SPRUILLE BRADEN      REPRESENTATIVE SCHERER

discussion series sponsored by the 42-year-old Foreign Policy Association.

IN WICHITA, KAS., the society has moved to battle in policy matters in P.T.A.'s, the library and colleges. According to George H. Lewis, assistant professor of economics at the University of Wichita, society members virtually control the Wichita Chamber of Commerce and seem to have a dominant influence in the State Chamber of Commerce.

"One of their major objectives in the state is to destroy collective bargaining."

Members of the society from coast to coast appear undisturbed by Welch's charge that President Eisenhower was not a dupe but a Communist.

Spruille Braden, former United States diplomat and a member of the society's council, said he did not agree with the charge but that it in no way led him to question Welch's judgment on other matters.

"He may exaggerate sometimes," Braden said of Welch. "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensberry rules."

(Next: Welch gives his opinion of Mr. Eisenhower, Taft, MacArthur and Goldwater; action of the opposition.)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

TO : SAC, SEATTLE

DATE: 3/31/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

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b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

On 3/30/61 [REDACTED] P-I reporter, who is doing an article on the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, telephonically contacted this office with regard to some questions he had on his mind concerning the Society which he is writing about.

He asserted that some people in the South had been running articles concerning the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY and most frequently one of these newspapers quoted "an FBI source," as describing the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY as an "irresponsible organization." He further asserted that a source of his in Seattle has also informed that some individual in Seattle has made inquiry at the Seattle FBI office concerning Professor [REDACTED] a University of Washington professor, and this source claims that a request was made to make the FBI files on [REDACTED] available. Furthermore, he had learned that the FBI recently characterized [REDACTED] as an "unfit speaker" for certain public gatherings.

[REDACTED] was emphatically advised that this office does not make any unauthorized comments regarding organizations or individuals, either pro or con, and this office would certainly reply to other people in a like manner if their inquiries were similar to those of [REDACTED]. He was also informed that the FBI files are confidential and not made available to unauthorized persons.

I further stated inquiries concerning the status of any person or organization emanating from unauthorized sources are responded to negatively, and I had no further comments to make with regard to [REDACTED] the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY or any other organizations or individuals.

[REDACTED] requested the identity of higher Bureau authority and in honoring this request I furnished the Bureau telephone number and the name of Assistant Director ALAN BELMONT. He implied that he would immediately call the Bureau concerning the aforementioned inquiry.

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[ ] throughout this conversation solicited information as to whether the FBI would furnish a person like himself the same answer I had already furnished him in this instance. He was told that the questions he had asked, whether they be asked by him or some other unauthorized, unofficial person, would be answered in effect in the same manner as it had been answered by me.

## Justice Department Expresses Concern Over Birch Society

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(A.P.)—The John Birch Society, a conservative anti-Communist organization, has become "a matter of concern to the attorney-general," a Justice Department spokesman said today.

The spokesman said "a growing number of inquiries" about the organization had been received by the department. He declined to go beyond that brief statement.

There was no direct comment from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, brother of the President.

Members of both the House and Senate denounced the organization yesterday and called for investigations of its leaders. Several senators have been attacked in letters, writing campaigns by the society, members.

Meanwhile, a House member, Edgar W. Hiestand, Republican, California, acknowledged that he is a member of the Birch Society.

HIESTAND SAID other members of Congress probably are too, but he felt they should have the right to decide for themselves whether to acknowledge this. As for himself, Hiestand said, "I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm one of them."

The most caustic criticism centered on the society's founder, Robert Welch, who has called former President Eisenhower and other

national leaders Communists.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, spoke out today against "reckless charges" and "vigilante action" in a signed editorial in the F. B. I. Law Enforcement bulletin.

HOOVER DID not mention the John Birch Society, and F. B. I. spokesmen declined comment on whether the society was an intended target. Hoover wrote:

"The job of curtailing and containing Communism is one for legally constituted authorities with steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen."

"This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action."

"Attributing every adversity to Communism is not only irrational, but contributes to hysteria and fosters groundless fears."

Senator Dodd, Democrat, Connecticut, said he would ask the Senate internal security subcommittee to investigate the society and its leaders. Dodd is a member of the subcommittee. Dodd joined Senator Kuchel, Republican, California, in denouncing the organization.



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## AMERICAN EXTREMISTS

# 52 Nomination 'Theft' Charged

(This is the last in a series about the semisecret John Birch Society, an anti-Communism organization that has caused controversy by its methods.)

By BARBARA BUNDSCHU  
United Press International

Robert Welch, founder and leader of the John Birch Society, charges that the 1952 Republican presidential nomination was stolen from the late Senator Taft of Ohio.

Welch's bitterness against former President Eisenhower apparently dates from the 1952 convention, when Mr. Eisenhower won the G. O. P. nomination over Taft.

In a startling "letter to Khrushchev," published in his magazine, American Opinion, in 1958, Welch told the Russian leader he knew that among the pro-Communist activities of recent years had been:

"The snatching of the Republican nomination from Taft in 1952 by purchase, theft, secret deals and other tactics more foul than had ever before appeared in American politics."

LATER IN THE same letter, which assures Khrushchev that "we know that you are winning the cold war by leaps and bounds," Welch wrote:

"The president of one of America's largest banks took suitcases full of currency to the convention to bribe delegates away from Taft, and he was rewarded, for thus providing such spontaneity, by a major ambassadorship."

In an interview with the United Press International, Welch named Taft and General MacArthur as men he considered great Americans of recent years but declined to name his present-day favorites. His "Blue Book," however, leaves no doubt that his choice is Arizona's Republican Senator Goldwater.

"I'd love to see him President of the United States, and maybe some day we shall," Welch said.

Goldwater, in response to an inquiry, said he is not aware of any Birch Society indorsement and is not in any case running for anything except the Senate. His term expires in 1964.

GOLDWATER SAID he knew several Birch Society members and "they are very outstanding people."

Welch, in a "Blue Book" speech of December, 1958, called former Vice President Nixon, "one of the ablest, shrewdest, most disingenuous, and slipperiest politicians that ever showed up on the American scene."

Welch's views on President Kennedy were indicated before Mr. Kennedy's election. Welch did not mention Mr. Kennedy by name but his sentiments were made clear in a discussion about the "amoral man."

"You will usually find him in church on Sunday morning, maybe even a Catholic church," Welch said then. "But as a member of the United States Senate running for the presidency, and smart enough to know the strong Communist support behind the scenes which he will have to get in order to have any chance of being nominated in 1960, such an amoral man can do a tremendous amount of ball-carrying on behalf of the Communists' aims here in the United States, and he can do an almost equal amount of damage to anti-Communist morale in other parts of the world, by his well-publicized speeches against Chiang Kai-shek or in favor of the Algerian rebels."

"And any similarity of characters in this story to any living persons is not coincidental."

"I am prepared to defend the society's right to express their views, as I would leftist opinions," said A. T. Winn, Los Angeles attorney prominent in the American Civil Liberties Union. "That its views, however, are acceptable to any portion of the American public is a sad commentary on the present American political scene."

SENATOR YOUNG, Republican, North Dakota, who has criticized the society on the Senate floor, said: "What surprises me most is not its size but the number of prominent men who belong."

Twelve of the 20 men listed as members of the society's council are in "Who's Who in America." They include two former presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers—William J. Grede and Cola G. Parker, both of Wisconsin; a third former N. A. M. president, Ernest C. Swigert of Portland, Ore.; had previously been listed as a council member.

The Racine, Wis., Journal-Times said: "It is a cause for crackpots, but those allegedly responsible persons who support it will be tarred with the same brush."

Other council members include Spruille Braden, former United States diplomat; T. Coleman Andrews, the former collector of internal revenue who ran for President on a



COLA G. PARKER CLARENCE MANION ERNEST SWIGERT T. COLEMAN ANDREWS

platform calling for abolition of the income tax; Clarence Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame Law School and head of the highly conservative Manion Forum; M. T. Phelps, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona; Col. Laurence B. Bunker, former personal aide to General MacArthur, and Lieut. Gen. Charles B. Stone, 3rd, (ret.), former commander of the 14th Air Force in China.

THE LATE ALFRED Kohlberg, New York importer best known for his support of the "China lobby," was a charter member.

Adolph Menjou, the Hollywood actor, was at one time a member of the council. His wife said on March 21 that Menjou had withdrawn from the society, having found he disagreed with Welch "on certain points." She declined to elaborate.

Some answers to Wirin's question on the society's appeal were provided March 18 in two pages of letters printed by The Los Angeles Times after its editorial condemnation of the society.

FOUR WRITERS said The Times articles preceding the editorial were prompting them to join the society. Two justified their membership in these words:

"It is the only organization that I know of that gives vital information on what is really going on and gives us suggestions for positive action," and

"If our government had made a real attempt to inform us, or to direct our attention to the need for this information, the John Birch Society would have been unnecessary."

Letter writers, who praised the newspaper for its stand against the society included former Vice President Nixon, the presidents of the University of California and Occidental College and the chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles; Representative Corman, Democrat, California; and Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy.

ONE LETTER, signed only with initials and presumably written with a matrimonial "we," complimented The Times for explaining "probably much better than we might the reasons why we resigned after several months as members."

The letter said the writers had become disturbed by cards distributed by the society last year to protest the planned summit meeting.

Designed for mailing to President Eisenhower, the cards read: "If you go—don't come back!"

The letter continued:

"Then we began to note that almost every public official—Roosevelt, Truman, like Nixon, Dulles and others—became ever widening targets of Welch."

"We heard whispers, remarks prefaced by, 'Would you believe it if I told you—?' and we became increasingly wary."

"We became disenchanted with the John Birch Society and withdrew."

NIXON WROTE The Times: "It may at times seem unrealistic and naive to follow the rules of the game when our opponents are so unscrupulous and completely devoid of morality. But, in the end, refusing to resort to methods that are wrong not only is right but in the long run it is the most effective way to combat an evil doctrine like Communism. Those who adopt the doctrine that the end justifies the means inevitably find the means become the end."

The Times' publisher, Otis Chandler, wrote: "To stand up and say unequivocally what you believe in your heart is the right thing regardless of immediate discomfort or neighborhood reactions, is a blessed virtue. We have done this on major issues of concern to all of us, and we respect and thank God you, the American public, have the guts to do the same. This in itself hurts the Communist cause."

Birch Group Founder:

## Welch Denies Calling Ike Communist

BELMONT, Mass., March 31. — (AP) — Robert Welch, founder of the ultra-rightist John Birch Society, denied today that he ever called former President Dwight D. Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

When asked in an interview whether he ever did view Eisenhower as a Red agent, he replied:

"I never had that opinion, I never thought it then with firmness enough to publish it or to say it in public and I don't today."

THE LATTER exchange came when a reporter asked him to comment on this statement published in a book comprising what Welch calls a "private confidential letter written years ago":

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

The book or letter also describes Presidents Harry S. Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt and the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles as tools of communism. When asked about this, he told a reporter he had said "they were being used by the Communists—I never said they were Communists and I don't say it now."

THE INTERVIEW with Welch in the headquarters of the Birch Society here took place after he issued a prepared statement "offered as an effort to pierce . . . some of the incredible fog of falsehood now being so widely circulated about me."

Welch said in the statement he does not think Truman and Roosevelt were Communists "or sympathizers in any way with ultimate Communist aims."

Welch, a retired 61-year-old candy manufacturer, said "the John Birch society is not, simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, thereby a secret organization."

"OUR OBJECTIVE has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise," he said. "All of our materials are wide open for anybody to pursue."

Welch said "nowhere in my private or published writings have I ever called former President Eisenhower a 'card-carrying Communist.'"

But Welch said he did write a private confidential letter "some years ago" in which I stated "that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his (Eisenhower's) actions simply to political opportunism."



ROBERT WELCH in the blunt language of a personal letter, some harsh personal opinions of our then president.

He said that letter made it clear "that I had no quarrel with anybody who wished to attribute his (Eisenhower's) actions simply to political opportunism."

WELCH SAID his letter was read by most of the men who founded the Birch Society in 1958 and was "specifically disavowed by the group as being no part of the material of belief of the John Birch Society in any way."

As to the society, Welch said:

"Our only 'crime' is fighting communism. And that we intend to continue until our side wins."

Welch added the society has "broken no law, violated no moral principles, and has a firmly stated foundation of its program that even good ends never justify bad means."

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**Says Field Representative:**

# Birch Society Aims To Remove Warren

BY JOHN D. MORRIS

WASHINGTON, March 31.—A field representative of the John Birch Society said today that the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren was one of the organization's primary aims.

Bryton Barron of Springfield, Va., a retired State Department historian, said the movement for the removal of Justice Warren was instituted several months ago, because since joining the court he had "voted 92 per cent of the time in favor of Communists and subversives."

THE JUSTICE Department disclosed, meanwhile, that the ultra-conservative society was "a matter of concern" to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

A spokesman said, however, that no investigation was under way and that it was doubtful whether there were grounds for one. The department is trying to determine whether such grounds exist, he reported.

IN ANOTHER development, Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand, Republican of California, reported that the society was "growing very fast" and aiming for a membership of 100,000 by the end of 1961. Hiestand, a member of the

society, held a news conference to answer criticism of its activities.

"There are lunatic fringes, and the John Birch Society is not that," Hiestand declared.

THE SOCIETY was founded in 1958 by Robert H. W. Welch Jr., a retired Boston candy manufacturer. It is said to have chapters in 34 states and the District of Columbia. It is named for an American missionary-soldier who was killed by the Chinese Communists shortly after World War II.

Its avowed aim is to oppose communism, but some critics have charged that it is equally interested in promoting extreme right-wing causes and discrediting public figures with whom its leaders disagree.

## Birch Society Indirectly Hit By NAM

© 1961  
New York Times  
News Service

NEW YORK, March 31.—The National Association of Manufacturers disclosed today that its executive board unanimously adopted a resolution last September indirectly censuring the John Birch Society.

It said the action was taken after its attention had been called to a series of articles in a Chicago newspaper reporting that Robert Welch, the society's founder, had described President Eisenhower as a Communist.

THE RESOLUTION, after expressing the association's faith in the President, said:

"The NAM as an organization does not and will not knowingly be associated with an individual or be a party to any organization that questions the loyalty and integrity of President Eisenhower or attempts to degrade the fundamental respect due him and his high office."

Charles H. Sleight Jr., executive vice president, said three former NAM presidents who have been identified as having been active in the John Birch Society had attended the meeting and voted for the resolution. They are: William J. Grede, Elm Grove, Wis.; Cola G. Parker, Neenah, Wis.; and Ernest G. Swigert, Portland, Ore.

MEANWHILE, a check of various sources today indicated that the society had not attracted much attention in New York City or the suburbs. Several "watchdog" committees had no file on the organization.

## John Birch Society: The Ten Points

BY BARRY FARRELL

Post-Intelligencer Staff Writer

WHEN, on a gloomy Indianapolis Tuesday in 1958, the John Birch Society was born, many old and tired midwives stood in attendance.

One of them was Conservative Fundamentalism, another was Old Fashioned Isolationism and a third, some critics have suggested, was Native Fascism. Among the midwives was Well-Meaning Patriotism, too, and as Robert Welch, the candy-maker who organized John Birch, often insists, another spirit present was that of Americanism. The ten-point program John Birch has established and the many campaigns to which its members devote themselves are mirror images of the philosophy one can find in such old-time publications as Bible News Flashes, The Sword of The Lord, Dan Smoot's Report, The Cross and The Flag, American Nationalist, and American Mercury.

The John Birch campaign against the fluoridation of city water, for example, is as old as fluoride itself. Fluoridation, the argument goes, results in a whole bouquet of physical calamities (arthritis, paralyzed legs, stunted growth, loss of fertility) as well as in a steadily declining moral sense and a spirit of docility that will render us helpless against Communist soldiers.

What's more, Welch has argued, a huge supply of deadly fluoride at every city's reservoir would give enemy agents the opportunity to poison us all or force our surrender by tempting us with fresh water.

Another old war horse John Birch has mounted is the campaign for repeal of the income tax, based on the theory that big government equals big evil and that without the income tax, big government would die of malnutrition.

### Other Objectives

The Blue Book of the John Birch Society hints at other objectives—white supremacy ("Civil rights," Welch says, "as used to make trouble in the South today, is an exact parallel to the slogan of 'agrarian reform' which they (the Communists) used in China"), anti-intellectualism and anti-labor. But unlike the old champions of these questionable causes, John Birch is militant, organized and endowed.

Its 10-point program is proof of this. After a preface of the "If I Were King" variety, Welch outlines the program in The Blue Book in this order:

1—Establish small and inexpensive reading rooms, stocked with a nucleus of 100 approved books and the best anti-Communist periodicals. (P. G. Beezley, the John Birch coordinator here, said the other day that the reading rooms will soon begin to appear in Seattle.)

2—Widen the circulation of conservative periodicals, particularly American Opinion, Welch's own magazine.

3—Increase through financial support and advertising the radio audiences of commentators such as Fulton Lewis and Clarence Manion.

4—Organize and control the letter-writing weapon so that, optimally, 200,000 letters can be on any Congress man's desk in a matter of 48 hours.

5—Organize front groups—big fronts, little fronts, temporary fronts, permanent fronts, all kinds of fronts.

6—Start shocking the American people into "right thinking."

7—Silence leftist speakers by use of the question technique before audiences—(a technique, it might be added, that generally deteriorates into simple heckling).

8—Line up a large group of speakers to carry the anti-Communist message to civic and social groups.

9—Extend the society into other countries and set up governments-in-exile for refugees of nations turned Communist.

10—Reverse by political action the gradual surrender of the United States to communism.

### What About Revolution?

Since "reverse by political action" is a phrase likely to cause FBI men to sniff the first aromas of sedition, Welch explains it in a rather equivocal paragraph in The Blue Book:

"We are not beginning a revolution," he writes, "nor even a counter-revolution . . . because, while we are opposing a conspiracy, we are not ourselves making use of conspiratorial methods. Yet our determination to overthrow an entrenched tyranny is the very stuff out of which revolutions are made."

There are other projects John Birch has undertaken that do not appear in the program. One in which Welch complains of being frustrated is the "take over" of the PTAs.

"We urged (our members) to consciously strive to move up the ladder and exert influence in the state and national PTAs," Welch wrote in a bulletin.

"We have received considerable criticism on that item . . . on the ground that . . . our suggestion simply could not be carried out by any conservative parent. It seems that the liberals and leftists running the PTA from the top have set up such a brilliant system of self-perpetuation . . . that there is no practicable way of shaking this leftwing grip over the whole machine."

Welch's complaint against the PTA is based on his feeling that it has used its power to introduce subversive material into the books used by school children.

### Names Wanted

Another John Birch effort is the move to acquire a list of impressive names to indorse the society. The four indorsers from Washington State are Beezley, Fred M. Harris, Col. Tom Hutton and Harry M. Robbins. Seattle attorney Frank E. Holman appears as a member of the editorial board of American Opinion, Welch's magazine and the voice of John Birch.

(Monday: The Future of the John Birch Society.)



## 'No Glory' in Death of John Birch

BILLINGS, Mont., April 1. —(U.P.I.) — A Billings broadcaster who served in China with John Birch, after whom the ultra conservative John Birch Society is named, said today that Birch was shot and killed by a Chinese Communist officer during a heated dispute and that there was "no object lesson" and "no glory" in his death.

Joseph S. Sample, who was in the same Office of Strategic Services detachment as Birch when Birch met death at the hands of

the Chinese Communists ten days after the end of the Second World War, said Birch's brash manners probably led to his death.

Sample is president of KOOK radio and TV in Billings.

Robert Welch, retired Massachusetts candy-maker who founded and heads the John Birch Society, chose the name because Birch was regarded as the first American to die at the hands of the Chinese Reds after the Second World War.

**"BIRCH WAS—**A man with no particularly distinguishing characteristics — a little stiff, perhaps, with a not very high regard for the Chinese, and somewhat self-important, but nothing unusual," Sample recalled. "If he had strong political convictions, they were not in evidence."

In the summer of 1945, when civil war appeared inevitable in China, Birch was assigned a mission in Central China, Sample said. The small team consisted of

## Says O. S. S. Associate

a staff sergeant, radio operator, interpreter and code clerk.

"The mission should have been routine," Sample said, except that when it arrived at its designated area it was met by Chinese Reds.

"The Chinese were understandably disturbed by what seemed to them an unwarranted intrusion into their area and demanded an explanation," Sample said. "Some of them had undoubtedly never seen Americans before."

**CAPTAIN BIRCH CHOSE** to attempt to bluff his way out of a difficult situation. Harsh words led to insults, and insults to arrogance. Finally, in a fit of rage, the Chinese Communist leader shot Birch.

"The remainder of the team was released and returned to Kunming after an arduous trip on foot which consumed several weeks. The sergeant in command received a citation as a result of the successful withdrawal. "The news of Birch's death

created a sensation at O. S. S. Headquarters, primarily because of the irony of his being killed after the war was over."

Sample said the Birch mission was not the first contact American forces had made with the Chinese Communists, nor was it the last.

"While succeeding O. S. S. teams were more careful in their dealings with the Chinese Communists," Sample said, "there was no real object lesson in Birch's death and certainly no glory."

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## By Senate Subcommittee Birch Group Aid Welcomes Inquiry

BELMONT, Mass., April 1. — (AP) — Robert Welch, founder of the controversial John Birch Society, disclosed today he has asked the Senate internal security subcommittee to investigate the organization.

Welch's secretary made public a night letter which was wired last night to Sen. James O. Eastland, D. Miss., subcommittee chairman.

IN IT WELCH promised "none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment" and asserted the society's "only crime is fighting communism."

The telegram was made public some 24 hours after Welch said he never had called President Eisenhower a "card-carrying Communist."

The denial came as criticism of the rightist society mounted following disclosure Welch had written Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

WELCH SAID in his wire to Eastland:

"Because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of fact, and many of which are sheer fabrications, the John Birch Society respectfully requests an official investigation by the Senate internal security sub-

committee of which you are chairman . . ."

"In the course of such an investigation we hope to be able to present to your committee, and through your committee to the American people, the simple truth about the John Birch Society . . ."

IN WASHINGTON, Eastland told a reporter he had received Welch's telegram and said, "I will take it up with the subcommittee as quickly as I can."

Because Congress is taking an Easter recess, Eastland said, it might not be possible to hold a subcommittee meeting next week.

Asked whether he personally favors an investigation of the society, Eastland said, he didn't think it proper for him to express an opinion now.

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### Civil Liberties Aid Urges Birch Rights To Views

The American Civil Liberties Union of Washington yesterday urged protection of the John Birch Society's rights to express its views—although it does not agree with the Society's aims and methods.

David Smith, Civil Liberties Union executive secretary here, said recent demands for investigation of the ultra-rightist Birch Society raise "serious issues of civil liberty."

Smith urged a "careful and deliberate concern for the First Amendment rights of the Society—the rights of free assembly, free speech and free press."

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## Birch's Death Called No Object Lesson

BILLINGS, Mont., April 1. — (AP) — The president of a Billings radio-television station says "there was no object lesson" and "certainly no glory" in the death of the man for whom the John Birch Society was named.

Joseph Sample, president of KOOK and KOOK-TV, said he served as a first lieutenant in 1945-46 in the same Office for Strategic Services detachment in Northern China to which Birch was assigned. Sample reviewed the circumstances of Birch's death in a weekly newspaper interview. He said his knowledge of the case was based on an oral report by a staff sergeant with Birch at the time of his death.

THE SOCIETY has been under fire from some national news magazines and congressmen for its ultraconservative activities.

Said Sample:

"When World War II erupted, Birch was a missionary serving in China. His familiarity with the country led to his assignment as an intelligence officer with Gen. Chennault's Flying Tigers.

By the fall of 1945, Sample said, the local war lord at Kunming was involved in a power struggle with Chiang

Kai-shek's central government.

"Against this background, Capt. Birch was assigned a mission in Central China. His was a small team, consisting of a staff sergeant, a radio operator, interpreter, and a code clerk.

"UPON HIS arrival at the designated area the team was met by a force of Chinese Reds. The Chinese were understandably disturbed by what seemed to them an unwarranted intrusion into their area.

"Capt. Birch chose to attempt to bluff his way out of a difficult situation. Harsh words led to insults, and insults to arrogance. Finally, in a fit of rage, the Chinese Communist leader shot Birch. This was Aug. 25, 1945, 10 days after V-J Day.

"The remainder of the team was released and returned to Kunming."

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## John Birch Society: 'Stalin Standard'

BY BARRY FARRELL

Post-Intelligencer Staff Writer

(Third In A Series)

THE LEADERS of the John Birch Society consider themselves shock troops in an army of awakening Americans, soldiers on the line in a war against the insidious forces of international communism.

They have drawn their battle lines through the nation's heart, condemning the mainstream of modern American society to the enemy's camp. Like militant rebels before them, they will tolerate no neutrals nor do they have patience with patriots of a gentler nature.

To distinguish between friend and foe, they apply a test everyone in the society calls "the Stalin Standard." The test is based on a remark Stalin made in 1946, in an address called "Forces of the New War."

"Of course there are members of the party and there are non-members," it goes, "but that is a formal difference. What is important is that both shall advance the common purpose."

By mercilessly applying "The Stalin Standard," the society has been attacked from both the right and the left. The attack from the right comes from conservatives who don't like being mistaken for extremists. And the attack from the left comes from liberals who don't like being mistaken for communists.

But Robert Welch, the founder of the John Birch Society, is well aware that the trouble one can stir up between right and left will pay dividends to his new order and, in all the literature of the society, attacks (always referred to as "smears") are invariably welcomed. Welch knows that controversy will bring converts to the society.

### Attack On Churches

The society's attack on the nation's churches has brought the most frequent and eloquent "smears" in return. Speaking out against churches and church groups (one third of the nation's pulpits are controlled by Communists, Welch has said) has had shocking impact on a great many communities that otherwise might have ignored the society.

The John Birch attack, as explained in The Blue Book, is directed against "the social gospel," as Welch and other rightists before him call it. The message of "the social gospel," roughly, is that Biblical teachings can and should—in fact, must—be applied to social and secular problems. An example of "social gospel" occurs, for example, when ever a minister preaches the cause of civil rights and uses the Christian doctrine to justify the brotherhood of equal men.

Since "civil rights" is a communist plot, according to Welch, those who preach it are falling into a communist trap. Again, "The Stalin Standard" is applied and the ministers fail the test.

In his attempts to divide society—one is either with him or against him—Welch demonstrates his real genius. "The Stalin Standard" is the ultimate example of demagoguery since, by shifty logic, one who fails the test is both a communist and not a communist.

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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"What better time, or place, or issue could we have than the impeachment of Earl Warren?" Welch once wrote, in a tour de force of doublethink. "Warren's decisions and actions, however he may have sugarcoated his own purposes for his own conscience, have definitely become a most important part of the whole advancing communist front."

Thus, by working for Warren's impeachment, Welch hopes to meet the forces of communism head on. And by virtue of this technique he can argue that a statement is both true and untrue.

A cardinal principle of John Birch is the establishment of front groups to advance the society's cause.

In The Blue Book, Welch expresses his theory of fronts at great length, pointing out that temporary groups, set up to accomplish a single purpose, are the most effective.

### Fronts Disturbing

The presence of fronts to do the society's work is disturbing to many John Birch critics, suggesting, as it does, an unwillingness to come out from behind the bushes.

This suggestion of secrecy is reinforced by the society's insistence upon keeping its members' names and numbers secret.

Beezley explains the secrecy is strictly tactical.

"Do the Communists tell you how many members they have?" he will ask by way of answering questions directed at John Birch's secrecy. "I think they (the Communists) would like nothing better than to know our strength."

But members names are kept secret even from one another.

"Let us again warn both our Chapter Leaders and Coordinators that the names of our members are not to be given to anybody for any purpose," Welch wrote in the society's December bulletin.

"We once turned down—and lost for good—an application for Life Membership in our Home Chapter with a check for a thousand dollars, because it carried a condition that we tell the applicant who his fellow members were in his locality."

Because the number of members is not known, Welch has only his conscience to guide him in accounting for the society's dues. Dues are \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women at the minimum.

But neither the secrecy nor the authoritarian commands of John Birch seem to discourage its members, or lead them away from the mission they have undertaken. They form front groups to advance their cause. And they have broader plans for the future.

They work hard — driven by their fear of a decaying society and by the image of John Birch, a fundamentalist Baptist missionary who was killed ten days after V-J Day in a Chinese village near Hsuehwa. He was killed by the bayonettes of Communist soldiers and, to members of the society named in his honor, his death was the first in the cold war.

To everyone in the society, it is important to say he was murdered.

(Tomorrow: The John Birch Society's Ten Point Program.)

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FEAR, HATRED, SUSPICION AT HOME

By MARQUIS CHILDS

## U.S. AWAKE TO FASCIST DANGER

WASHINGTON—How dangerous to the wellbeing of the U.S., and to its position as leader of the free world, are the radicals of the right?

This is a question being asked in Washington seriously as these radicals increasingly resort to the tactics of the Communists and the crypto-Communists of the thirties.



MARQUIS  
CHILDS

They practise character assassination without regard for the truth. They spread fear, hatred and suspicion. They advocate infiltration of non-political U.S. organizations such as the Parent-Teacher Association and the taking over of those organizations.

In some respects these radicals on the extreme right more nearly resemble the fanatical subverters of Germany and Italy who brought nazism and fascism into being.

They are often allied with the white citizens' councils, identifying integration with communism.

And at the extreme end of the spectrum they are openly anti-Semitic, often referring in propaganda leaflets to the Jewish-Communist conspiracy.

A few years ago this would have been dismissed as merely another manifestation of what Theodore Roosevelt so aptly called the lunatic fringe—this time on the right rather than the left.

But with the rise of the John Birch Society and its intrusion into politics that is not so easy to do.

### Drive for Power

Founded by Robert Welch, a former Massachusetts candy manufacturer, the Birch Society now claims nearly 100,000 members with chapters in most states and a goal of a million members paying dues of \$12 for women and \$24 for men.

They are pledged to accept the discipline of Welch, and many of their operations are secret.

Welch's secretly circulated book, "The Politician"—now reportedly withdrawn because it alarmed some members—has been compared to "Mein Kampf" if only in the Hitlerian view that the greater the lie the more likely that simple minds will fall victim to it.

He calls every president beginning with Franklin Roosevelt a Communist.

Of the Eisenhower brothers he writes: "While I, too, think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct."

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

THE VANCOUVER SUN  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

3/29/61

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*[Signature]*

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Both the late John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, are called Communists, with the latter ranking next to former president Eisenhower in his power of concealment.

Birch Society members have used their pressure techniques to force the showing of the House un-American activities film, "Operation Abolition." And they have denounced as Communists anyone questioning its accuracy or daring to suggest that the committee may have exceeded its rights.

### Weapon of Fear

For popular U.S. officeholders this is perhaps no more than a nuisance.

But for citizens—professors, clergymen and others—with a conviction of their right to speak critical and unpopular views, it can mean community distrust, a small business harmed, or even a job lost.

The silence of fear is the alternate penalty the radicals of the right try to impose.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

March 31, 1961

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

Burlington, Washington

Dear [REDACTED]

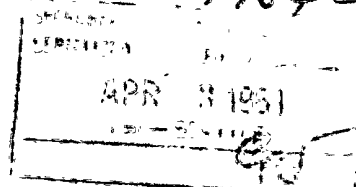
Your letter of March 23 has been received,  
and I appreciate the interest which prompted your communi-  
cation.

As I told [REDACTED] on February 10,  
1961, the FBI is an investigative agency of the Federal Govern-  
ment and does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to  
the character or integrity of any organization, publication or  
individual. I am certain you will understand the necessity for  
this policy and will not infer that we do or do not have in our  
files the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

(1) - Seattle - Enclosure





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DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
Burlington, Washington  
March 23, 1961

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau Of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

100-24754

I am a member of The John Birch Society. Recently, there has been many attacks on this Society and also on Mr. Robert Welch, the founder.

As far as I am able to ascertain, there is nothing subversive or unAmerican about The John Birch Society and it seems to me it is proving a real force in our country to combat communism.

A [REDACTED] from Burlington has stated she recently received a letter from you in which she said you "had nothing good to say about this group".

I would appreciate your writing me your opinion of the Society and if you feel it is a good group to work in to combat communism. I realize the sticks and stones start flying once you begin to hurt the enemy. I do not intend to be deterred from this job unless someone whom I respect such as yourself advise against it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## Birch: Hero or Hothead? Ex-Buddies Can't Agree

LOS ANGELES, April 3.—(A.P.)—Different views were voiced today on the death of John Birch, for whom the right-wing John Birch Society was named.

Birch, then an Army captain, was killed August 25, 1945, while on an intelligence mission in Central China.

In Billings, Mont., Joseph Sample, a radio-TV executive who served in the same Office of Strategic Services outfit as Birch, said in an interview:

"There was no real object lesson in Birch's death and certainly no glory."

IN LOS ANGELES, William P. Weiss, Jr., stockbroker, onetime O. S. S. officer who made up the mission on which Birch was killed, said:

"Certainly John was just as much a hero as any other American soldier who died for his country."

And in Pasadena, a Los Angeles suburb, a manufacturer, Gustav J. Krause, another wartime comrade of Birch, said:

"He brought about his

own death. He didn't die the hero he was supposed to have died."

Birch, a missionary's son who spoke fluent Chinese, was shot by the leader of a group of Communist Chinese.

SAMPLE, PRESIDENT of KOOK and KOOK-TV in Billings, said Birch's patrol ran into "a force of Chinese Reds. The Chinese were understandably disturbed by what seemed to them an unwarranted intrusion of their area and demanded an explanation.

"Captain Birch chose to bluff his way out of a difficult situation. Harsh words led to insults and insults to arrogance . . ."

Weiss, who lives in suburban Alhambra, said:

"He (Birch) was risking his life over and above the normal hazards required of our services during the war on a volunteer basis . . ."

Krause said:

"Because of Birch's background and his long life in China he threw his weight around . . ."

## Birch Society Probe Opposed By Civil Liberties Union

Constitutional rights of the John Birch Society to free expression were defended today

in a statement by David Smith, executive secretary of the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington.

Smith said the civil liberties group will oppose legislative investigations of the society on grounds they are likely to expose individuals for their beliefs and speech.

of its dogma" by means of public debate.

"What we urge now is careful and deliberate concern for the First Amendment rights of the John Birch Society — the rights of free assembly, free speech and free press," Smith said.

ang this stand despite  
hat he called "intolerance,  
red, thought control and

on Society.

"There can be no doubt that if the adherents of this society gained the ascendancy in the channels of government in the United States, the civil liberties of Americans would enter a period of deep eclipse," Smith said.

Smith said he hopes the society will continue to be "taken to task over the obnoxiousness

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## John Birch Society: Sinister Image

LAST OF A SERIES

BY BARRY FARRELL

Post-Intelligencer Staff Writer

EVERY NOW AND THEN, a member of the John Birch Society speaks up to proclaim some small objection to the sinister portrait that Robert Welch, his leader, has painted of America's image.

Whenever this occurs, it is duly noted within the society as proof that John Birch is not dictatorial, that members have freedom to express themselves and that the critics who have accused the society of being "just a goose step away from the goon squads" are irresponsible participants in the "smear" campaign that comes from the Communist-inspired left wing.

Welch, the candy maker from Massachusetts who founded John Birch, is masterful at controlling opinion within the society. For his mild dissenters, he shows understanding — understanding which he first extends, then withdraws in one of his superb flashes of double-think:

"Do not carry out any of our requests which are disproved by your own conscience," he writes in a spirit of generosity.

Then, in the very next sentence, the manacles are slipped over the wrists again:

"This is a monolithic body and we'll use our authority on the negative side . . . to prevent anybody doing any damage to the Society from within. We simply hope you will have confidence in our integrity and purposes and will fervently wish to carry out all or most of our requests."

### The Blue Book

Elsewhere in The Blue Book, he points out that the authoritarian nature of the society hardly makes it totalitarian, since members are always allowed the opportunity of resigning or being expelled. He appears to forget, of course, that this is an opportunity that was granted within the Nazi Party and, for that matter, the Communist Party. Trotsky provides an excellent example.

"If you don't like it, you can always get out," is, in almost a cliché among dictators.

Many in the society seem reassured in moments of doubt by the high tone of fundamentalist morality The Blue Book contains. Others who wonder at the abandon with which Welch attacks the nation's most august men have suggested the possibility of some mysterious omniscience that guides their leader: "Perhaps he has his own ways of getting information . . . ways we don't know."

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## Mild Objections

Above all, the objections from within are mild. Welch's literary style, as all the John Birch publications illustrate, is painfully didactic and the message of the author is invariably doctrinaire. The result is a heavy-handedness that causes the voice of dissent to seem frail and without hope — like a crocus that grows between paving stones.

So the members carry on the work, comforted by "The Stalin Standard" — the rule that clothes everyone in a spiritual uniform, the insistence that if one is not with them, he must be against them and to be against them is to be an enemy of America. They carry out their assignments—writing letters, making phone calls, holding meetings, planning campaigns. The future for them is the overthrow of the government — by constitutional means, of course.

Their ambitions are not small. They wish to awaken the nation through "shock" and, in the meantime, to work for the impeachment of this man and that, turn student against teacher and man against man in their tireless effort to see who the real Americans are.

John Birch has taken up the broadsword for all the splintered movements of the extreme right wing. And as the society grows, its nature becomes more militant, more bitter, more reckless in its attacks.

Its critics see it as a champion of three social evils:

That it is anti-Negro, if not anti-Semitic, because "Civil Rights" is a phrase invented by the Communist conspiracy to bring trouble to America.

That it is anti-labor, because the working man must be made content with his lot, content to play his mute role in the advance of "free enterprise," lest it perish to the threat of international communism.

And that it is anti-intellectual, because the intellectual, the story goes, is the natural enemy of "Americanism" and the darling of the leftists. "Find a conservative professor at the University of Washington," P. C. Beezley, the Mercer Island co-ordinator for John Birch here, has said. "Find him, if you can, and ask him if he isn't a lonely man." And it is anti-intellectual, too, because for all its many parts, it has all the intellectual content of a scream.

## Militant Society

The prospect of this semi-secret, authoritarian, ultra-conservative movement spreading across the United States may be of comfort to those whose fear of communism rules their thoughts about the nature of a good society; whatever it is, it's all right if it's anti-communist. But the spectacle of this new and militant society has been disturbing, too, and in recent days, members of Congress and officers of both federal and state governments have expressed misgivings about John Birch.

The society is far from its goal. The next few months will be its test. In the meanwhile, it is well to remember the words of Sir John Harrington — words that Robert Welch often aims at the communists but words, just the same, that are good and true when they turn back upon the

JOHN BIRCH  
"For if it prosper," said Sir John, "none dare call it treason."

## Controversy Rages Over Birch Death

Officer 'Caused  
Calls Him His Own  
'A Hero' Death'

LOS ANGELES, April 2.—(AP)—An Army intelligence officer who prepared the OSS mission on which John Birch was killed by Chinese Communists in 1945 said today:

"Certainly John was just as much a hero as any other American soldier who died for his country."

Reserve Lt. Col. William P. Weiss Jr. took issue with the president of a Billings, Mont., radio-television station who said yesterday, "There was no real object lesson in Birch's death and certainly no glory."

The John Birch Society is named for the missionary-turned-intelligence officer. The society has the declared purpose of fighting Communist infiltration. It has been under fire from some congressmen for its intensely conservative activities.

Weiss, a Los Angeles stockbroker who lives in suburban Alhambra, told a reporter today:

"(Birch) was risking his life over and above the normal hazards required of our services during the war, on a volunteer basis. All our people agreed to that."

"Unfortunately, he wasn't as skilled as he should have been. But he certainly is just as much a hero as he died for his country in trying conditions."

Weiss said that, as a captain, he prepared Birch's mission: "It consisted of reporting troop movements and other items to the (OSS) base at Kunming, China."

FORT WORTH, Tex., April 2.—(AP)—The officer who made the official report on the death of the man for whom the controversial John Birch society was named reluctantly said that Birch "was responsible for his own death," the Fort Worth Star-Telegram said today.

Gus Krause of Pasadena, Calif., made the statement in an interview Saturday night.

KRAUSE, now a civilian, was an OSS lieutenant colonel at Shian in North China at the time of Birch's death.

"Birch was a real fine gentleman, but being a son of a missionary family and having grown up among the Chinese, he was pretty forward and spoke harshly with the Chinese. He spoke Chinese fluently."

"He brought about his own death. . . . He didn't die the hero he was supposed to have died," Krause said.

KRAUSE SAID the OSS groups operating in China had to operate with either communist or Nationalist forces which they might encounter.

"The Chinese communists would fire at the drop of a handkerchief," Krause recalled. "Because of Birch's background and his long life in China, he threw his weight around."

"He had that comm. backed into a corner . . . where he almost had to shoot . . . to save face among his group."

BIRCH'S BODY was hacked with knives, Krause said.

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## Birch Group Perils U. S., Says Rayburn

(Compiled by Associated Press  
and United Press International  
dispatches)

MCKINNEY, Tex., April 4. — House Speaker Rayburn warned yesterday that the John Birch Society would destroy American freedom if allowed to spread.

Rayburn spoke at the 15th anniversary celebration of the Veterans Administration hospital in McKinney.

Rayburn did not mention the society by name during his speech, but afterward in answer to a question, he said:

"Of course the John Birch group is the one I meant."

"They're spreading this idea that a government can get by without levying taxes," Rayburn said. "That is no way to stay secure from those who would destroy our freedom."

"The men who spread these strange nostrums would destroy our freedom. They go the length and breadth of our land claiming that we, in America, do not have freedom."

EISENHOWER HIT — LOS ANGELES, April 4. — Thomas A. Anderson, an official of the John Birch Society, said yesterday he believes former President Eisenhower was a dupe of the Communists.

The Communists made more strides under Mr. Eisenhower than under any other regime."

Anderson is president of the Farm and Ranch Publishing Co. of Nashville, Tenn.

WELCH CRITICIZED — LOS ANGELES, April 4. — Robert Welch, founder and head of the John Birch Society, was called irresponsible yesterday by Arthur H. Motley, the president

of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Motley in a news conference was questioned about a charge by Welch that the chamber is Communistic, left-wing and subversive.

"I have known Welch for a long time and I called him on that," Motley said. "He told me he was only quoting an informer."

"But he couldn't name the informer and I doubt if there was one," Motley said. "I think he's irresponsible."

GOLDWATER DECLINES — WASHINGTON, April 4. — Senator Goldwater, Republican, Arizona, disclosed today that he rejected months ago an offer to become a member of the council of the John Birch Society.

Goldwater, a conservative, said he never joined the society.

The Arizona senator said he has no recollection of ever telling any member of the right-wing society that the group ought to get rid of Robert Welch, its head. The remark was attributed to Goldwater by Newsweek magazine.

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# Facts About John Birch Brought To Light By Pentagon Records

BY PETER ANDREWS

WASHINGTON, April 4.—In the swirling controversy over the ultra-conservative John Birch Society, the one man everyone talks about but hardly anyone knows about is John Birch himself.

**FRIENDS CALL** him a hero and the first casualty of the cold war. Enemies call him an unskilled braggart who brought about his own death by overplaying his hand against a Communist Chinese officer.

Published accounts of the group invariably go on for columns about the political leanings of the Birch society and then dismiss Birch himself, as a soldier-missionary from Georgia who was killed in 1945.

**BASED ON** official Army records, here, for the first time, is the life story in brief of John Birch.

The son of a Baptist missionary, John Morrison Birch was born in Landour, India on May 28, 1918. He came back to the United States and grew up in Georgia under the stern tutelage of his Baptist parents. While going through the High School he helped his father work their small farm, producing dairy products.

sometimes he dropped his chores and ran off to play baseball or swim.

He went on to Mercer University and graduated an AB in 1939 after majoring in Bible story and English.

Birch lived in China for

## Hearst Headline EXCLUSIVE

two years before World War II and was commissioned a second lieutenant while overseas.

During his Air Force service in China he received two Legions of Merit. The first came for his work as liaison officer between American and Chinese officers in the China-Burma-India theater of operations.

**BIRCH WAS** responsible for establishing close ground-air support of joint Chinese-American operations. "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell commended Birch, saying, "By reason of his patience and in this highly important mission he not only improved the timeliness and quality of intelligence reports but also firmly cemented friendly relations and increased effectiveness of future liaison work."

In presenting Birch with his second Legion of Merit, commanding Gen. Herman Wedemeyer said, Birch "pioneered the intelligence field in Southeast China, selected highly critical combat intelligence under the most adverse conditions and under circumstances of extreme hardship. His unusual tact and enthusiasm and leadership

high cooperation in commanding general of Chinese north war area.

**WHILE OPERATING** behind Japanese lines Birch maintained radio contact

with friendly forces and supervised the construction of three air strips in Japanese territory.

Ten days after the war was over, John Birch was slain by a Chinese Communist officer.

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## In Fight On Communism: Capt. Sanger Wins Support Of Labor

BY DON PAGE

The King County Labor Council threw its support behind Capt. Kenneth J. Sanger last night in the controversy over Sanger's assaults on communism.

Labor leaders were impressed by a talk on the communist threat made to the Labor Council last fall by Cmdr. Norman E. Berg, Sanger's second in command at Sand Point Naval Air Station.

The John Birch Society took some raps as "a fascist group" in last night's discussion before the council endorsed Sanger's "efforts to alert the country to communist aggression."

MUCH OF THE council's agenda was taken up by inconclusive but spirited debate over the longtime split between the Carpenters Union here and the Seattle Building and Construction Trades Council. The Carpenters, with their 13,000 members, have operated outside the Building Trades Council for the past five years.

Building Trades President James Bender, Electrical Workers business representative James Sullivan and representatives of some other crafts criticized the Carpenters for alleged refusal to co-operate in building

meeting's presiding officer. Carr is business representative of the District Council of Carpenters as well as president of the King County Labor Council.

IN DEFENDING the Carpenters, Carr recalled that he had, himself, been president of the Building Trades Council for 10 years. Carpenters were forced out of the Building Trades Council by per capita tax demands they couldn't meet, he said. The Carpenters Union never has advised its members not to respect picket lines, he said, except when its attorney advised it that it was laying itself and its members open to legal damage suits.

The debate closed with an invitation by Bender for Carpenters leaders to attend a Building Trades Council this morning and discuss their problems.

In other action, the Labor Council went on record in favor of an embargo on any goods produced overseas by American capital.

building trades people.

Much of the criticism focused on Harry Carr, the

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## Civic Group Hails Work Of Capt. Sanger

Capt. Kenneth J. Sanger, commanding officer of the Sand Point Naval Air Station, yesterday was

presented a commendation by a civic group honoring him for his efforts in "reactivating those qualities of leadership which make a nation great."

Capt. Sanger accepted the commendation on behalf of his "team," consisting of instructors in his leadership school on the base who also are members of his Volunteer Speakers' Bureau.



CAPT. K. J.  
SANGER

THE SPEAKERS on request appear before public groups to discuss Americanism and compare it to Communism.

The commendation was made by Group of People, Inc., whose aims are to educate the public regarding "our American heritage and those things which threaten to destroy it."

The presentation was made by Michael Dederer, a member of Group of People and former president of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

The organization said "Capt. Sanger's course of action is hereby commended by Group of People, Inc., whose members believe that his example will influence others to join in this noble endeavor."

DELEGATES to the King County Labor Council voted unanimously last night to endorse the Americanism program of Capt. Kenneth J. Sanger of the Sand Point Naval Air Station.

Delegates criticized the John Birch Society before taking the vote.

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## Times Readers Have Their Say:

### 'John Birch Society' Editorial Stirs Comment

Editor, The Times:

CONGRATULATIONS for running the United Press International articles on the John Birch Society and for your very fine editorial of April 3.

Too often, in our concern over the dangers from the left, we tend to overlook the menace to our free democratic institutions from other sources.

It seems very clear to me that John Birchers are not interested in freedom except for the leaders.

To them, equality is dangerous and must be denied even if it means to deny the teachings of the Bible, to deny our whole history.

This country was founded on the concepts of freedom and equality.

Through the years, we have attempted to realize these concepts — to make the American dream come true.

We have fought wars because we believed that only through freedom, only through equality, could man reach his God-given potential.

The John Birch Society would turn back the clock.

—LOUIS MICHAELSON,  
152 36th Av. E.

#### NO NERVE

Editor, The Times:

Instead of remaining silent and attacking the John Birch Society, of which you know damn little, why not assist in exposing communism?

You can start with the faculty at the University of

you just  
haven't got the nerve  
so.

—W. A. J., Seattle.

#### WANTS TO JOIN

Editor, The Times:

Thank you for apprising me of the existence, aims and policies of the John Birch Society. This was a major public service on your part.

However, you omitted the most important bit of information: Where and how can I join this group?

I've waited a long time for something like this to come along. Now that it is here, I'd like to get in touch with it.

—G. M. CARR,  
5319 Ballard Av. N.W.

#### TOWARD SANITY

Editor, The Times:

Thank you very much for carrying the recent series on the John Birch Society. I was further pleased to see the editorial of April 3 on the same subject.

This comment is a step toward sanity in understanding the Communist threat and also the threat from the right.

However, it won't do to silence either side by force of government. All sides must be challenged to open debate in order that the truth can be distilled from the exchange.

—JOHN SORESENSEN,  
6501 106th Av. N.E.,  
Kirkland.

#### APPRECIATION

Editor, The Times:

I want to congratulate you on your editorial relating to the John Birch Society. You have expressed better than I could my sentiments, as well as my thoughts about this group. Since I imagine you will be receiving many letters opposing your stand, I would like to voice mine in appreciation of this editorial.

—GOODHUE LIVINGSTON,  
1420 Seneca St.

#### HOW TO FIGHT

Editor, The Times:

Read your editorial of April 3 in reference to the

John Birch Society. You say, 'let's fight communism the Hoover way.' Is there not more than one way to fight it?

And if it proves effective, isn't one way just as good as the other?

I feel that we have been playing politics with communism long enough. It is time for every society, whether it be Birch or otherwise, to stand up and be counted.

Too many are seemingly against communism that are, by their actions and deeds, adding comfort to it every day.

They are found in our churches, political parties, (both parties) various organizations, social and business, and even in our various branches of the government. So why, then, should men such as are in the Birch Society, who have the courage and intestinal fortitude to stand up and be counted, be condemned because their straight-forward way of doing things is the only way that we in America are going to whip communism?

Instead of having useless hearings as to their manner of approach, could we not make more headway against communism by urging groups everywhere to gather together for the sole purpose of fighting communism in their own particular manner?

—R. S. HAINES,  
Rt. 2., Bellevue.

#### DANGEROUS METHODS

Editor, The Times:

You are to be congratulated for your editorial viewpoint of the John Birch Society, and for this perceptive way you have articulated the danger this organization and its methods are to our free society.

—LANDON R. ESTER,  
2201 72nd Av. S.E.,  
Mercer Island.

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# Young Demos Call Birch Society 'Contradictory'

OLYMPIA, April 9. —(AP)  
—The John Birch society is  
"contradictory to the princi-  
ples of American democracy,"  
the Western Regional Board  
of the Young Democrats of  
Washington said Sunday.

The board released a reso-  
lution saying "the most mean-  
ingful way to oppose and  
ultimately defeat the conspir-  
acy of international commu-  
nism is to keep faith with our  
own way of life and form of  
government."

THE RESOLUTION was  
adopted Saturday night.

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## John Birch Society Founder Rapped For Extremism

If the John Birch Society fails to survive mounting criticism by congressional and other governmental sources, the extreme positions taken by its founder will have proved to have been its undoing.

Founded on a patriotic ideal of combating Communism, the organization is under heavy fire as the result of irresponsible statements circulated by Robert Welch, the retired candy maker who launched the society in 1958.

The society, which made its appearance here and in Skagit County last year, seemed to have a basic purpose to which almost all Americans could subscribe. There is a very real Communist threat in the United States, and it is well for citizens to be informed about it.

But the trouble with many crusaders like Welch is that they tend to lose their sense of proportion and start to throw their weight around. They are inclined to tolerate no dissent from extreme views and begin to think about taking matters into their own hands. The result often becomes growing uneasiness and mistrust among members of a community.

But before such trends grow to serious proportions, many sincere and well-intentioned persons become involved. In this case, we presume, they are individuals who feel a need to do something about the Communist menace.

California Congressman who is a member of the society, Rep. Edgar Hiestand, says he believes only a small percentage of the members are extremists. Presumably most don't really subscribe to the wild statements attributed to Welch impugning the loyalty of President Eisenhower (of all people!) and many other American leaders.

Extremists of the left or the right generally start out with sound con-

cepts, but carry them too far. Most of us have little sympathy for the ultra "liberals" who can see no good whatever in legitimate efforts to guard the nation's security. But we concede their right to think and speak as their consciences impel them.

We have felt for some time that leaders of the John Birch Society might become an embarrassment to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with the House Un-American Activities Committee, and the news reports from Washington now seem to bear this out. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, the one high federal official whose pronouncements have been regarded by Welch as gospel, has come out with severe criticism of "vigilante action" by Americans combating communism, without mentioning the Birch group by name. Hoover pointed out that Communists stand to gain from rifts among our citizens and "this, unfortunately, involves certain people across the country who engage in reckless charges against one another."

This repudiation by Hoover—the nation's greatly respected leader in the fight against Communism—is bound to shake every member of the Birch society. It probably is the catalytic agent that could hasten its departure from the scene.

The real tragedy is the sense of disillusionment many patriotic persons who joined to be part of an anti-Red crusade are likely to feel, and their embarrassment at being associated with someone whose behavior reflects against everyone in the group.

The fight against Communism is still a noble ideal, to which we can all subscribe. The lesson to be learned is that citizen organizations set up to take irresponsible action only hinder the work of those who are duly authorized to investigate and act against the enemies of our way of life.

### JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

BELLINGHAM HERALD  
BELLINGHAM, WN.  
WILLARD K. FOWLER, EDITOR  
4-2-61  
SEATTLE OFFICE

### COPY SENT TO BUREAU

It is suggested the Bureau may desire to address a communication to WILLARD K. FOWLER, Editor of the Bellingham Herald, expressing its appreciation for his remarks concerning the Director. Indices of Seattle Office contain no info making it undesirable.

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# The Seattle Times

Founded August 10, 1896

Alden J. Blethen, 1846-1915

C. B. Blethen, 1879-1941

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

ELMER E. TODD, Chairman of the Board; F. A. BLETHEN, President

J. A. BLETHEN, Vice President

W. K. BLETHEN, Publisher

## The John Birch Society

THE TIMES published the United Press International series on the John Birch Society last week as a public service, and is pleased that the nation now is being alerted—through the U. P. I. series and other sources—concerning the nature and activities of this dangerous extremist movement.

The John Birch Society apparently is well financed and counts a handful of prominent men among its membership. But these are not the primary reasons why we consider it to be dangerous.

*The danger lies in the potential ability of an extremist group to divide and confuse the American public merely by mounting a horse labeled "anticommunism" and riding it off in all directions.*

The John Birch Society is a prime example of a group wholly committed to the conspiracy theory of history.

PEOPLE who believe in the conspiracy theory of history are convinced that every misfortune and every difficulty experienced by their country are the result of dark plots, treason "sell-

tactics of the Communists.

This is not surprising, since psychologically the extremists of the right or the left are cut from the same pattern.

SOME right-wing extremists have been fond of quoting J. Edgar Hoover, the respected head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Let them, then, ponder well Hoover's sage advice concerning "vigilante action" by Americans combating communism.

"The label of 'Communist' is too often indiscriminately attached to those whose views differ from the majority," said Hoover.

*"This is neither the time for inaction nor vigilante action (against communism). The ingredients for Communist coups in nations which have fallen under its spell always include a populace shaken with fear, hysteria and confusion."*

"There is above all the danger of irresponsible counteraction by citizens who lend impetus to communism through inept attempts to fight this insidious menace."

petual confusion. And they seek to communicate this attitude to the whole population.

*The appeal of organizations like the John Birch Society is to people who crave simple, black-and-white answers to all problems—who feel at home, emotionally and intellectually, with a dogma or creed that permits no deviations and assigns to the "enemy camp" all who do not follow the prescribed orthodoxy.*

Some right-wing extremists admit to having borrowed or adopted some of the

YES, let us—all of us—fight communism. But let us do it in the way that Hoover and others who really know this "insidious menace" advise us to do it: "Study it, understand it and discover what can be done about it."

*This takes effort and patience and thought. It is not a matter of simply attaching labels to individuals and institutions.*

The really rewarding and effective ways to fight communism do not involve constant proclamations of one's own patriotism and constant challenges for the patriotism of others.

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

SEATTLE TIMES

APR 3 - 1961

PAGE 8 COL 1

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It is suggested that the Bureau may desire to address a letter to Mr. W. K. BLETHEN, Publisher, expressing its appreciation for the support of the Director's views. The indices of the Seattle Office contain no information making this undesirable.

## Voice Of The People:

# The John Birch Society: Pro And Con

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

You are to be commended for Barry Farrell's series on the John Birch Society.

You have demonstrated that ideas destructive of democracy can be fought without resort to coercive techniques of government, and that the freedom of expression guaranteed by the First Amendment, including freedom of the press, is still democracy's best defense.

DAVID J. SMITH,  
Executive Secretary, American Civil Liberties Union  
of Washington.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

The attorney general of the State of Washington uses a major fear tactic in threatening to use his office and position to intimidate those who would do something to rid themselves of communism, the greatest threat the world has ever known.

FRANK J. CARR,  
5319 Ballard.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

Thank you for your series

of people who willingly adopt techniques which run counter to our political traditions.

DAVID SKELLENGER,  
Fourth and Pike Bldg.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

Farrell misses the point. Like many companies, and organizations, this society starts with a leader with a basic set of ideas and a group of followers. This is a monolithic society, but as long as its aims and goals are moral by Christian standards, and it does not use force or violence, what's wrong with it? I hope it can stand up to the many billion dollar monolithic communist conspiracy... as it begins to hit Welch and his society hard.

MARK B. LEWIS,  
Edmonds.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

I find your staff writer Barry Farrell objectionable and unpatriotic in his articles on the John Birch Society. I do not belong to the society and had never heard of it. When have Americanism wives

tale?

MARIAN B. MCGOVERN,  
Bellevue.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

I know I am representative of many liberal, loyal Americans when I say we thank you for the Farrell series.

H. B. A.,  
Seattle 22.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

The little man with the great big hatchet (your Barry Farrell) must have been prompted by someone. He didn't miss a word in the smear campaign vocabulary. I'll bet he practices calling himself names when he looks into the mirror. If this is an example of objective reporting, cancel my subscription.

L. A. GELLENBECK,  
Tacoma 5.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

Mr. Farrell writes, "When on a gloomy Indianapolis Tuesday..." Does he really know the condition of the weather that day, or is he trying to prejudice the reader? Mr. Editor and readers of The P-I, please read the series and let me

know if you can find a single, objective, rational, or scholarly argument against the John Birch Society.

GEORGE O. WILLIAMS,  
2601-31st Ave. W.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

Both The P-I and Barry Farrell deserve an award for bringing to public attention the activities and methods of the John Birch Society.

LEO WOLF,  
4314 Roosevelt Way.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

Why is the press engaged in what has the effect of a smear campaign against the John Birch Society?

Why do not you give facts which will consolidate our faith and activities against a sinister enemy instead of against those who resist that enemy?

DORIS B. HAMMOND,  
2122 N. 185th Street.

### To The Post-Intelligencer:

Thank you for printing the revealing series on the neo-fascist Birch Society. This is an outstanding public service.

GRACE RUBIN,  
Mercer Island.

SEATTLE POST  
INTELLIGENCER

APR 7 - 1961

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### **Costigan to Talk On Birch Society**

Dr. Giovanni Costigan, University of Washington history professor, will speak on the John Birch Society at a meeting of the Overlake Democratic Club of Bellevue Monday.

The meeting will be at 8 o'clock at night in the First Congregational Church, 752 108th Av. N. E., Bellevue.

SEATTLE TIMES

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*[Signature]*

## Welch Defends Birch Society As Enemy of Collectivism

HOLLYWOOD, April 10.—(U.P.I.)—Robert Welch, founder and leader of the John Birch Society, spoke out in defense of the controversial group last night by saying its long-term aim was to halt the "disease of collectivism and the flight to amorality."

Welch, 61, retired candy magnate from Belmont, Mass., denied he was a "Nazi" or had complete control over the members of the national group.

Welch made his statements while appearing as a guest on the half-hour local TV program of the Rev. Dr. James W. Fifiield, Jr., a minister of the First Congregational Church. Welch will appear as guest speaker tomorrow night at the church's Freedom Club in the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium.

Dr. Fifiield, in introducing Welch, said the Freedom Club speech already is sold out. He praised the late Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin, then turned to Welch and said, "They killed him off. I hope they don't get you."

Welch announced the society's primary effort this year was to stop the Communist conspiracy and "educate as many of our neighbors as possible as to what's happening and why it's happening."

Another aim is to impeach Chief Justice Warren, Welch said.

Welch said the group was secret or even semisecret, saying, "all our beliefs are in our publications."

Welch declined, however, to make public the number of the society's members or

the Young Democrats' Western Regional Board here Saturday that the society is not anti-Semitic, fascist or totalitarian.

The board, however, adopted a resolution saying: "Having heard the proposition of the John Birch Society, we find it contradictory to the principles of American democracy."

"This nation was born of revolt, has flourished on dissent and has been made great through experimentation," the resolution said.

The society, the resolution said, "denies the right to political freedom . . . abuses the right to free and open discussion and advocates suppression, ridicule, misrepresentation and assault against any thing other than its own."

### THREE SENATORS CRITICAL—PRINCETON, N. J., April 10.—(U.P.I.)—

Three United States senators criticized the John Birch Society over the week-end in addresses before a three-day symposium on world affairs at Princeton University.

The criticism was from Senator McCarthy, Democrat, Minnesota, Senator Javits, Republican New York, and Senator Saltonstall, Republican, Massachusetts. They spoke to some 600 students from 21 colleges throughout the East.

McCarthy, in the closing address yesterday, said the Birch Society was "the outgrowth of people 'who are interested only in simple answers.'"

### NO LEGION STAND — AUSTIN, Tex.,

April 10.—(A.P.)—The executive committee of the Texas Department of the American Legion yesterday decided not to take a stand on the John Birch Society.

The committee voted to send all its information on the right-wing group to the American Legion's National Commission on Americanism.

The decision came after the Texas department's Counter-Subversive Activities Committee reported the Birch Society was "an organization with a noble aim — fighting Communism."

Bill Neel of Lubbock, chairman of the counter-subversive committee, said he is a member of the society.

"I got into the fight after World War . . . I began to find Communist spiratorial hands under . . . Socialism. The more I studied, the more I saw these hands."

Welch will make a speech in Santa Barbara, Calif., Wednesday under the sponsorship of the John Birch Society of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties.

### DEMOS UNCONVINCED — OLYMPIA,

April 10.—(A.P.)—A member of the John Birch Society failed to convince Washington Young Democrats that the ultraconservative organization is a good thing.

Mrs. Virginia Shackelford of Tacoma told

SEATTLE TIMES

APR 10 1961

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## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

By S. Q. S.

### BIRCHES

There once was a birch,  
That gave way to a perch.  
An "anti" group started,  
And it's now in the lurch.  
Welch, welch, welch.

## Birch Society's Origin

The John Birch Society was born on December 9, 1958, the child of an overwhelming fear of Communism and an intense determination to fight its inroads by any means.

Robert H. Welch, its founder, is the principal figure in the Society's inner circle, and director of its activities. He retired from active participation in his brother's candy-making company in 1957 to "devote his entire time and energy to the anti-Communist cause," his biography says.

Welch laid the foundations for the movement when he called 11 of his friends to Indianapolis, there to meet and discuss the communist problem and what they could do about it.

The outcome of that meeting was the John Birch Society, which had its first chapter formed in February, 1959.

Since that time, it has spread throughout the United States. It now claims to have chapters in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Membership is claimed to extend into 40 states. Membership in the movement is expected to reach 100,000 this year. The goal is a million "truly dedicated" members.

Who the men were, attending that meeting and helping to set the movement into motion, is not revealed by the society's Blue Book. Where they came from, however, is given.

The states these men represent: Oregon, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Virginia. These states are in the area in which the Populist movement of the 1890's had its origin and greatest following.

In the Society's Blue Book, Welch sounds a call for "true believers," who give "unwavering obedience to ancient and divine principles" who have "unshakable confidence in absolute, eternal principles and truths."

Welch makes a sweeping claim concerning the extent to which communism has infiltrated American society. He says, "This octopus is so large that its tentacles now reach into all of the legislative halls, all of the union labor meetings, a majority of the religious gatherings, and most of the schools of the whole world."

Around this idea, Welch had developed his doctrines and his justification for using "mean and dirty" techniques to fight communism.

Members are supporting Welch's impeach-Earl Warren drive, an attack on the U. S. Supreme Court, and castigations of various other government officials.

University of Washington Daily  
Seattle, Washington  
April 13, 1961  
Page 2, Col. 5

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"Fascist?" "Right wing?" "Totalitarian?" "Ultra-conservative?" "Reactionary?" or "Crackpot?"

Politicians have tagged the John Birch Society with a number of such labels in describing the organization's controversial methods and doctrine.

The reactions of individual political spokesmen to the anti-communist organization are as contradictory and varied as those that might be found in a broad cross-section of American society.

Two University political science professors attacked the John Birch Society's methods as an antithesis to democratic means of fighting communism.

Dr. Hugh Bone, executive officer of the political science department, condemned the group for using "the respected anti-communist pitch" to engage in all-out warfare against U.S. social legislation, institutions, groups and individuals.

"Democracy is being attacked in ways reminiscent to Hitler's tactics," commented Dr. Alex Gottfried, professor of political science. "The German fascist movement came into prominence as a group of extreme, dedicated patriots and as outspoken anti-communists. These are the Birchers."

A glance at the Blue Book, the society's confidential credo, reveals its broad "anti-program" ranging from the dissolution of NATO and the United Nations to repeal of the federal income tax.

Others have extended the "dislike" category to include labor, public education, dissenting opinions, intellectuals, foreigners and fluoridation.

Welch's book states the intended aim of the Birchers as: "less government,

more responsibility and a better world."

Techniques utilized in fighting communism within the United States are communist-type "front" groups organized for specific purposes, according to Robert Welch, founder of the society.

Newspaper reports add that leader Welch condones the "use of loaded questions" to discredit suspects which the group cannot prove to be Communists. Welch admits that this, and tactics such as spying and infiltrating presumably respectable community groups, are "mean and dirty methods."

Another Birch method of exposing communist-affiliates is extensive telephone and letter-writing campaigns. Congressmen, community leaders and the mass media have been diluged with communications attacking individuals, extolling the virtues of the John Birch society, and presenting its "political" program.

Could the John Birch society potentially gain enough support to become an effective political pressure group for their "anti-program"?

The organization's numerous and diverse negative appeals attract a large number of dissident right-wingers, according to Dr. Bone. By this "multi-purpose" platform, the society could effectively though insidiously build up membership.

"However, he added, "it is hard to see this as a mass movement. The society may stir up ferment and discussion but I doubt if it goes very far. But it's too early to tell."

On the other hand, Dr. Alex Gottfried, of the political science department, com-

pares the various right-wing movements to that of Hitlerism in Germany, saying:

"We have no assurance that membership in the John Birch society can't grow into the millions."

While Dr. Bone calls the group "ultra right-wing," and "reactionary" in the sense they advocate turning back to the "good old days," Dr. Gottfried believes the society is "clearly an authoritarian group envisioning a fascist-type society."

Both Bone and Gottfried noted the similarities between the John Birch society and the hundreds of historical and contemporary rightist groups.

Distinguishing the Birchers from other right-wingers, Gottfried emphasized that the Birch group includes a number of "powerful businessmen" capable of substantially subsidizing the group's activities.

Do the professors consider the John Birch society a threat to democratic processes and institutions?

Gottfried stressed that when considered separately, the Birch society is not terribly important. But "wider acceptance of the set of attitudes represented among its members and leadership should concern us."

"It is meaningless to distinguish the Birch society from the hundreds of other ultra-conservative groups in the United States," he said. "Neither their messages nor methods of fighting communism differ substantially. They aim to fight communism in any way deemed necessary. Such matters as constitutional guarantees, and character-assassination are minor considerations to them."

The extreme right wing today is a mi-

*By Joan Geiger*

not in Congress, and unless the society gains Congressional support, Dr. Bone doubts whether it can become politically effective.

He believes that semi-secret organizations can be incorporated into our political framework "only as long as their objectives are consistent with the constitutional system of the United States. But our society does not have to tolerate groups which are working toward the overthrow of the democratic system."

And, according to Dr. Gottfried, that is precisely what the John Birchers are seeking to do. He considers it "irresponsible to disregard the society or pass it off as 'ludicrous.'"

Referring to Attorney General Robert Kennedy's comment that the society was "ridiculous," Gottfried commented:

"Hitler was called a ludicrous little man." I think it requires a Macabre sense of humor to laugh off such an organization as the John Birch Society."

"It may be amusing in certain of its beliefs or methods, but not in the sense that it can be dismissed as a threat and not taken seriously. They may be able to do a great deal in the United States."

He added that "any investigation of the society by Congress would interfere with the constitutional group guarantee of free expression."

"I deplore the society because it is diversionary," said Dr. Bone. "By stirring up energies and attentions they divert Americans from the fundamental problems facing the United States—unemployment, the situation in Laos and Africa, and even stream pollution," for example.

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## Campus Poll: Most Oppose Birchers, But Support Free Expression



WOLFGANG  
ANDERSON

BOB  
JULIEN

SUE  
BRADLEY

RICHARD  
RING

DAVE  
BECKMAN

LORRAINE  
GAIN

HERMAN  
HUSEN

ROD  
PETRENCHAK

DAVE  
TORRELL

LON  
DAVIDSON

By JOANNE EBNER

Students at the University, though admittedly not a precise cross-section of the American population, reflect a divergence of opinion on the John Birch Society.

In a highly informal poll, DAILY reporters asked about 25 people for their opinions on the Society. As was expected, some were for it, some were against it, and some either wouldn't say or had no opinion. The latter group is not included here.

Francis Sjursen, Senior, history: "Some of the organization's attitudes tend to be fascist. But I don't think that anything has been proven against the society. If anyone had the initiative to start up an organization which is on the

lookout for subversive groups, I think it is a good thing."

Herman Husen, Junior, psychology: "Our academic freedom is being endangered. The radicals on both sides are making the real battle against Communism more difficult."

Dave Beckman, accounting: "You can't fight fire with fire. The society is fighting communism in too radical a manner."

Lon Davidson, Freshman: "The organization is limiting our political freedom by jumping on so many people and accusing them of being Communists."

Bob Julien, Freshman, pharmacy: "The society should be careful in what it says. As a society, however, it has the right to exist."

Rod Petrenchak, pre-law: "The society is a threat to our personal freedom."

Sue Bradley, Freshman: "We should allow a member of the society to speak on campus, allowing everyone to attend so that students could make up their own minds."

Mrs. Lorraine Gain, sociology: "The society represents a hostile attitude that has been built up against the democratic proc-

ess of our civilization."

Richard Ring, Junior, economics: "As far as the movement is concerned, if it continues at its present rate and direction, it will end like McCarthyism."

Wolfgang Anderson, Freshman, pre-law: "The society should be able to exist. It will bring out diverse elements in a democracy. A man like Welch, however, is bringing out things that are slanderous."

Dave Torrell, Senior, economics: "It will never continue unless it can get outstanding people such as Barry Goldwater into the society."

Mel Wagner, Freshman, pre-major: "Appealing to our emotions of fear and insecurity, this group is able to gain a foothold. Everyone has fear of Communism, and our fears often lead us to irrational and radical conclusions."

# John Birch Society Analyzed By UW Psychologists, Sociologists

By LINDA REYNOLDS

Through considerable research and some speculation, psychologists and sociologists have designated certain traits as characteristic of movements comparable to the John Birch Society in composition and aim.

They agree generally that individuals comprising such groups possess similar personality traits, adopt an attitude underlying general opinion in society and rely upon a powerful, authoritarian leader for organization and direction.

"Persons who support an organization such as the John Birch Society," said a University sociologist, "have probably belonged to several similar movements in the past."

One psychologist termed this type of person an "authoritarian personality." He said, "This person possesses certain traits which are found in the majority of the members of his group."

"These people react to others in terms of power," he continued, "bowing down and conforming to those above them in authority, while rejecting persons beneath them or on their own level. Such an individual tends to deny his own feelings. Rather, he projects the mass of his hostilities outward."

Another sociologist added that "this person perceives others like himself, possessing his ideas and opinions." He said, "These people do not identify with other persons. In their minds, there can be no group, but their own. Their group is, therefore, better than all others."

It was agreed that "such

movements are characterized by black and white; only two alternatives exist for any given situation; there are no intermediate shades of gray; no middle line to be followed."

Both psychologists and sociologists emphasize the importance of the leader in such a movement. One person said, "The ideas advocated by the group are always present in society, but a leader must organize the persons who hold these opinions and bind them together. These persons respect power and authority. Their leaders, therefore, possess these qualities."

"Persons belonging to such a group are extremists," he continued, "a matter of degree is all that distinguishes them from others in society. Although they display an outward air of superiority, subconsciously they often feel insecure and inferior."

Another opinion regards these persons as unable to cope with the complex ideology which characterizes our democratic government. "Their leader usually has one simple answer to the problems of the world. They seek a monolithic or single-value society."

One sociologist feels that ideas existing in the John Birch Society have developed in reaction to the world situation as a whole. He said, "Recent pro-

gress of the Soviet Union has influenced political and economic ideas in the United States. Many such movements result from changing balances in world power."

General feeling indicates that although such groups could be harmful if allowed to run unchecked, the tendency is not a significant characteristic of the American scene. Most psychologists and sociologists "look to the maturity of the nation as a whole to avoid acceptance of such solutions and to counteract the action with clear thinking and action of their own."

It was pointed out that, in at least one sense, the society may be a good thing. "The John Birch Society has brought important issues to the attention of many persons who were before unmoved and unconcerned with existing problems," said a sociologist.

Yet, men in this field seem to agree that one definite danger does exist. Although the society itself may die out rather quickly, the ideas which it advocates are apt to remain.

One psychologist summed up the situation with this statement: "People will not remember where, when or how they got the ideas, but they will remember; this is the danger the John Birch Society or any similar group presents to the American people."

(Comments for this article were secured from University psychology and sociology department staff members. Their names have been withheld on request.)



# Seattle Newsmen Defend Role Of Press in Birch Society Expose

By JUDY HUNT

Dimensions Editor

The press just did its job—and that was to bring the John Birch Society into the public eye “to be counted,” two leading Seattle newspapermen said yesterday.

The wide publicity was necessary so that such a “cancer” could be recognized and dealt with; to leave the society alone would have created problems in the future, Dwight Schear of the Seattle Times and Barry Farrell of the Seattle Post Intelligencer stated.

The two newspapermen, who have handled much of the material published about the John Birch society in the Seattle area, are well versed in the background, objectives, and activities of the group. Their views, as presented in this story, do not necessarily represent the views of the two newspapers.

Asked if they felt that perhaps the society had been aided by the attention given it, the two men agreed that this was possibly true.

“But the John Birch society was aided only where it would have gained strength anyway,” Dwight Schear, editorial writer for the Times, maintained. “Those people who would have supported or joined this type of organization later, after hearing about it from other sources, are the ones who might have joined after the newspaper stories.”

The most important service done by the newspapers was to warn the public, Schear stated.

“The information disseminated was well worth-while in order to alert people to many right wing factions, and to the possible source of materials now before the public,” Schear added.

Schear did not elaborate what materials he meant. He warned the public that right wing extremists are an ever present danger to democracy.

“Such societies as the John Birch Society are not the way to fight communism. If fits like this increase, it will aid communism, particularly if people abroad think this represents a sizeable segment of American thought,” Schear added.

Barry Farrell, reporter for the Post Intelligencer, also held

that the press had been “fair” to the John Birch Society.

The newspapers brought the society into public focus. If such an organization has the strength to survive, as well as the virtues to survive, then it will do so, Farrell said.

The only thing the local papers did was report what the society was doing and what it was aiming to do, and if it should die of ridicule, then it is the society itself which causes the death, Farrell maintained.

“We may have helped them momentarily. But the people

who might be joining it now are those who would join it anyway. The press has simply put other people on their guard,” Farrell stated.

In speaking of the society, Farrell compared the danger of letting such a society grow beneath the surface of public knowledge to that which William L. Shirer brought out in his book, “The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich.”

“Shirer pointed out that no one took the Nazis seriously for a while. If the press waits till the story cries to be told—because of mass membership—then it may be too late,” Farrell said.

“The only solution for such a society is death through ridicule,” Farrell concluded.

## Membership Growing

(Continued from Page 7)  
sites and some Protestant churches should also be brought to the attention of the people, Beezley said.

When asked if Communist infiltration has reached the University campus, Beezley indicated he has not been on the campus enough to comment. However, he thinks communism should be taught on the campus so that students might better understand the dangers of the system and be able to contrast communism with republicanism.

The philosophy of the society is laid down in the Blue Book, which has been available for over a year. The book may be bought from society members or through the society headquarters.

Although Beezley is not in complete accord with the writings of Robert Welch, the Society's founder, he defends many of Welch's statements. Beezley says Welch has documentation for all his charges, and has agreed to appear before a congressional investigating committee. For this reason Beezley believes charges of secrecy against the society are unfounded.

Persons suspected of Communist affiliation may be brought to the attention of the American Legion Anti-Subversive Committee by individual members of the society, but the society as a unit does not take such steps, Beezley said. The society keeps no files on suspected Communists, for it feels this is the work of the F.B.I. and congressional committees.

Beezley explains adverse publicity in newspaper editorials here in Seattle as due to a lack of understanding on the part of the papers. He feels all "insinuations and innuendos" have

Island. He is deliberate in manner and answers many questions with a brochure or pamphlet.

Beezley is unwavering in his convictions, and quick to defend the work of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy, the House Un-American Activities Committee, the American Legion Anti-subversive Committee and the John Birch Society. He is always willing to discuss ideologies, philosophies and government.

## Membership Growing Birch Official Says

By KEMP MAC-LEAN

There are about one million persons in the United States who would be ready to take orders from the Kremlin at a moment's notice, according to P. C. Beezley.

Beezley is the volunteer coordinator of the John Birch Society for Washington State. It is this growing concern over the advances made by communism during the past 12 years that has prompted him to subscribe to the Society.

Membership in the society has shown a sharp increase since national attention was focused on it some weeks ago. This increase is reflected in the Seattle area, Beezley said.

The exact number of chapters in the Seattle district is not known except to society members. This secrecy is to prevent Communists from knowing the inside workings of the society.

"There is no definite blueprint for membership," says Beezley. "We would like to see as many people as possible what is going on."

Membership in the society is gained through friends telling other friends. Beezley explained they are not looking for members for the sake of numbers.

"We are looking for people sufficiently aware to be worried and to do something about it," Beezley said. "We want people to inform themselves, their neighbors and law makers."

All dues collected by the society go to national headquarters in Belmont, Mass. The society is free to use the money in accordance with the Advisory Council. The books are audited by a national firm of accountants.

The Society in Seattle represents a cross-section of the population, Beezley reported. The function is primarily one of education. The atrocities of the Congo and Tibet should be brought to the attention of the people, Beezley asserted. Infiltration by Communists of key government positions, univer-

(Continued on Page 12)

Context.

Whatever the future holds for the John Birch Society, P. C. Beezley is assured an active life. Having retired several years ago as the founder and past president of the Washington Asphalt Co., he is as busy with his Society work as he once was with his business.

A sign over Beezley's desk reads "My Mind Is Made Up! Don't Confuse Me With Facts." Beezley lives in a well-landscaped home overlooking Lake Washington from Mercer



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## Birch Group Stirs Opposition

Organizational leaders in Seattle say that the John Birch Society denies the right to political freedom and could be a danger to our country.

(The New York Times, April 2, reported that society members have been asked to operate in "front" organizations and "through such established groups as the P.T.A. and chambers of commerce. The same UPI article mentioned that one of the aims of the society was to "eliminate action in churches for social legislation.")

The Rev. Lemuel Peterson, executive minister of the Greater Seattle Council of Churches, first heard about the John Birch Society when he was in California last February.

"It didn't appear good to me at the time," he stated. "It now sounds as though it is leading toward the same kind of suspicion and misunderstanding that other groups are using to divide our country and make us less effective in the fight

against communism. The tactics being used are among the best to accomplish the aims that the Communists have in mind."

George Mack, President of the Young Democrats of King County, said that the best way to counter any extremists, whether they be on the right or the left, is to make our own system of government work. This would include having an intelligent citizenry actually participating in public and political affairs — making efforts to learn as much as possible about the problems of the world.

"One of the surest ways to weaken our country is to cause the rise of suspicion and fear concerning the loyalty of other Americans," Mack said. "We believe that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other police agencies are doing a sufficient job of protecting our country from treason and subversion. They do not need the help of organizations composed of amateurs."

Charles V. Johnson, President

of the National Association Advancement of Colored People, said that he didn't think most people were taking the John Birch Society seriously. The people he comes in contact with say very little about it—what they do say is in the form of a joke.

Johnson stated that the NAACP believes in the freedom of speech but feels it can be carried too far. He felt that the present attack upon key people in government could give us bad publicity in other countries.

He did not think the society should be investigated by the House Committee on Un-American Activities at the present time, but added, "I don't think the organization should be ignored. It could become detrimental to our country if it continued with some of its present practices."

A spokesman for the King County Republican Central Committee, John R. Barnard, feels that the society is receiving more attention than it is worth.

"Its approach is unrealistic," said Barnard. "It is completely out of step with the modern world."

Mrs. William O. Creighton, first vice president of the Seattle Parent Teacher's Association, said that she knows very little about the Birch Society—only what she has read in the papers.

"The PTA has always encouraged good citizenship and patriotism," said Mrs. Creighton. "The Birch Society has not been chosen by the PTA to represent them."

A local spokesman for the American Legion declined to comment on the Society.

# Yakima Morning Herald

Dedicated to a Greater Yakima Valley

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1961

TED ROBERTSON, Publisher

## Divide And Conquer

John Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, counsels well that citizens and governmental authorities confront the threat of world communism "in a calm, realistic, rational, law-abiding manner."

In the FBI Enforcement Bulletin for April, he says the job of curtailment and containing communism is "for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen," not for vigilante action.

He cites Lenin's pronouncement that conquering "of the more powerful enemy" only could be achieved by carefully and skillfully taking advantage of "every, even the smallest rift among the enemies . . ."

He points to the existence of such a rift involving "certain people across the country who engage in reckless charges against one another" and indiscriminately attach the Communist label to those whose views differ from the majority.

Mr. Hoover's warning should be taken to heart and mind by zealous individuals subscribing to the activities of the John Birch Society, whose founder and chief zealot, Robert B. Welch of Belmont, Mass., frankly has described himself as a "fascist."

That is advocacy of the principle of obedience to authority as opposed to individual liberty. It is obedience in this case to Mr. Welch, as he has set forth in his so-called Blue Book, to keep his adherents in line and unquestioning. In his conception, his activities, programs and operations are above reproach and admit of no

dissent, even when "mean and dirty tactics" are employed.

Any militant organization so hidebound — so narrowly and stupidly conservative — holds the seeds of menace to a free society.

Although Mr. Welch has made haste to say that his outfit is not "totalitarian," the distinction is but in degree. From "authoritarian" movements have come totalitarian governments — highly centralized government under the control of a political group which allows no recognition or representation to other political groups. Mussolini's Fascist Italy and Hitler's Nazi Germany were the products of authoritarian leadership.

For a present example, we have the Soviet Union, with its one-party system controlled by the Communist Party.

Director Hoover's observation that certain people in this country have made reckless charges and indiscriminately attached the Communist label applies to Mr. Welch and those foolishly echoing his assertions reflecting on the loyalty of former President Eisenhower, Chief Justice Warren, Allen Dulles, central intelligence director, and many other prominent Americans.

What sensible American can believe the fantastic accusation that former President Eisenhower has been "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy?"

As Mr. Hoover so strongly emphasizes, rift-creating "irresponsible counteraction" by anti-Communists here — "inept attempts" to fight the insidious menace — lends impetus to communism.

The Reds profit while we scuffle among ourselves.

Yakima Morning Herald  
April 11, 1961  
Yakima, Washington  
Page 6, column 1,2.

100-24754-67

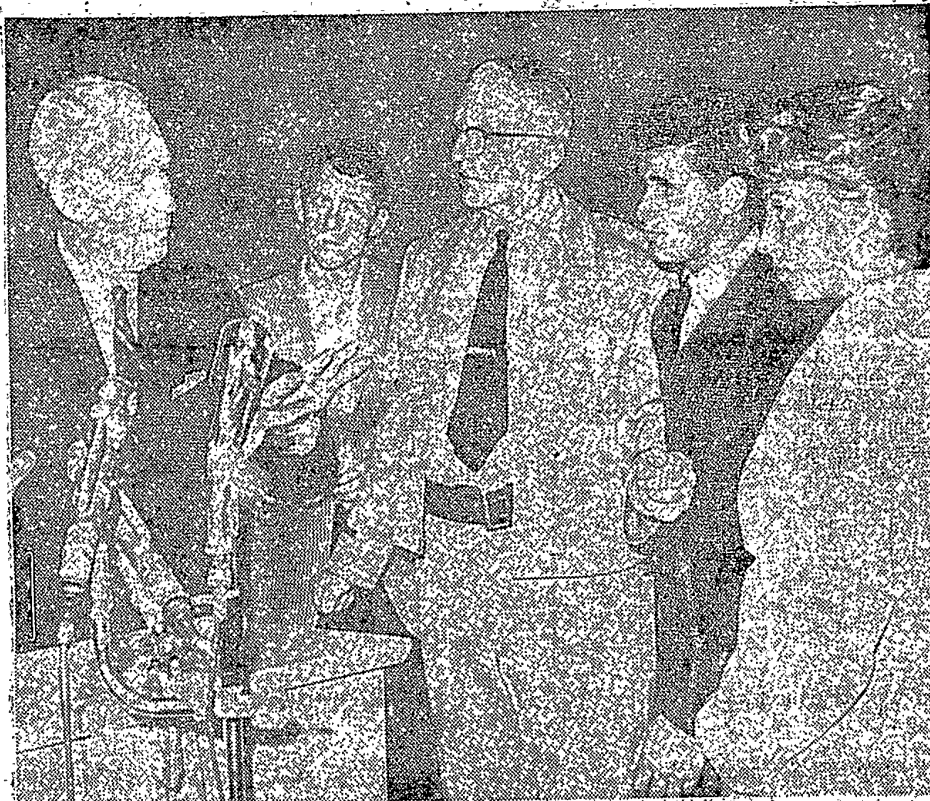
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It is suggested that the Bureau address a letter of appreciation to Mr. TED ROBERTSON, Publisher of the Yakima Morning Herald, for expressing his views. The indices of the Seattle Division contain no information making it undesirable to do so.

**HECKLED:**

## Birch Founder Speaks



**STUDENTS REBUFFED:** In Santa Barbara last night—A patrolman held back a group of University of California students as they sought to question Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, after his speech in San Marcos High School

auditorium. Earlier, Welch engaged in a rapid-fire exchange with one of the students who questioned him from the floor about tactics used by the society to combat Communist infiltration in the free world.—A. P. wirephoto.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., April 13. —(U.P.I.) — Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, ran into heckling from university students last night when he said Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren should be ousted. Welch, 61, a retired Belmont, Mass., candy-maker, spoke before a capacity crowd of 1,000 at San Marcos High School auditorium. About 200 of the listeners were students from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

THE STUDENTS expressed

their displeasure with boos, hisses and snickers when Welch praised such figures as the late Senators Joseph R. McCarthy and Robert A. Taft. While students booed, another and larger segment made of older persons, applauded vigorously each time Welch mentioned these names.

Welch engaged in a heated exchange with Charles Porter, 21-year-old political science major, on the question of "front organizations."

Porter asked Welch whether

the Birch Society used fronts to achieve its ends.

WELCH SAID, "of course we advocate front organizations. There is nothing immoral about fronts. What may be immoral is the purpose of the fronts."

Porter then began to interrupt and Welch said: "Will you sit down and I will answer your question."

Welch said the Birch Society has used fronts but added: "Some Communist fronts have different purpose from what they are set up for."

SEATTLE TIMES

APR 13 1961

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## Birch Society

This week we have received a number of letters defending the John Birch Society. Inasmuch as we cannot use them all, we publish excerpts from three typical letters herewith.

**To The Post-Intelligencer:**

J. Edgar Hoover is right when he says the Communist threat is real and frightening. In the past few weeks Captain Sanger, USN, has been openly smeared for showing patriotism. Now the John Birch Society is being smeared.

PAUL HICKMAN,  
Sedro Woolley

**To The Post-Intelligencer:**

If anyone is really interested in how the John Birch Society operates, why not attend a meeting? You are free to listen and ask questions.

J. W. BAKER,  
Seattle

**To The Post-Intelligencer:**

Barry Farrell's mention of the "old and tired midwives" (in attendance at the birth of the John Birch Society) confirm a suspicion that his attack was really motivated by a contempt for traditional conservatism. Most of those "midwives" were in attendance at the birth of our republic.

E. ANDERSON,  
Seattle

SEATTLE POST  
INTELLIGENCER

APR 16 1961

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## For The Record

To The Post-Intelligencer:

My name has recently been bandied about in the local press as a member of the John Birch Society. Please advise your reporters that I am not now and never have been a member of that society. When invited to join, I wrote Robert Welch, the organizer, as follows:

"I have given considerable thought to your invitation to become affiliated with the John Birch Society. Generally speaking, I am in accord with the society's objectives, but during the last several years I have received a number of requests to be a sponsor or to be on the advisory committee of various patriotic groups throughout the country and have almost uniformly de-

clined. My reason is that, sooner or later, many of these groups, or the leaders of them, make intemperate pronouncements with which I do not desire to be connected. Moreover, I now find myself, at the age of seventy-five, where I am getting too old to crusade as an active member of any particular group.

"In spite of the foregoing, I earnestly hope that you and the other patriotic spirits who are responsible for the organization and activities of the John Birch Society will be able to carry on and defeat the left wing efforts to engulf this country in socialism at home and to make us a mere principality in some form of world government."

FRANK E. HOLMAN,

Seattle

SEATTLE POST  
INTELLIGENCER

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

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DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

TO : SAC, SEATTLE

DATE: 4/18/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7CSUBJECT: AMERICAN SURVIVAL, INC.  
BOX 24, Bellingham, Wash.

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

*100-24754*  
*105-6901-4437*  
*100-643-1*  
*67-0-1832*

On 4/18/61, [REDACTED] JBS, Bellingham furnished the enclosed (2) mimeographed publications of AMERICAN SURVIVAL, INC. He advised that this group was "sort of a front group" for the JBS and the two publications were disseminated in the following manner: (1) MORO JEWELL has been giving speeches to various civic groups and afterwards he hands out the publications to interested individuals. (2) "One of our people" has a mailing list he is distributing this information to.

The first publication is in the form of an invitation to request additional information ~~xxx~~ from AMERICAN SURVIVAL, INC. The second is a tear sheet which may be used to order a number of Government Printing Office publications direct from GPO.

[REDACTED] added the list of GPO publications was "lifted" from the MINDZENTY STUDY GROUP. *NR*

It is interesting to note ~~that~~ the statement on one of the attached pages that "In combatting Communism, we must beware of vigilante action" ~~x~~ since the latter phrase corresponds with the Director's phraseology in his April LEB editorial.

(2)  
JFF/

*100-24754-71*

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DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)(REG)

4/25/61

SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

AMERICAN SURVIVAL, INC.  
Box 24, Bellingham, Washington  
INFORMATION CONCERNING;  
THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

On April 18, 1961 [redacted]  
the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, Bellingham, furnished two mimeographed  
publications of AMERICAN SURVIVAL, INC. He advised that this  
group was "sort of a front group" for the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
and the two publications were disseminated in the following  
manner: (1) MORO JEWELL has been giving speeches to various  
civic groups and afterwards he hands out the publications  
to interested individuals. (2) "One of our people" has a  
mailing list he is distributing this information to.

The first publication is in the form of an invitation  
to request additional information from AMERICAN SURVIVAL, INC.  
The second is a tear sheet which may be used to order a number  
of Government Printing Office publications directly from  
Government Printing Office.

[redacted] said the list of Government Printing Office  
publications was "lifted" from the MINDZENTY STUDY GROUP.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

The publications are being submitted as enclosures  
to this letter.

[redacted]  
Files of the Seattle Office contain no adverse  
information identifiable with [redacted] and contain no infor-  
mation identifiable with the MINDZENTY STUDY GROUP.

This is being furnished to the Bureau for the purpose  
of indicating the current extent of the activities of the  
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in the vicinity of Bellingham, Washington.

2 - Bureau (REG) (Encs. 2)

(1) - Seattle  
PTB/jpv  
(3)

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APR 25 1961  
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### G. O. P. Club To Hear Speaker Of Birch Society

The John Birch Society's Pacific Northwest regional organizer, P. C. Beezley, will speak at a public meeting of the Young Republicans of King County at 8 o'clock Thursday night in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

Dean Thornton, club president, emphasized that the Young Republicans had not endorsed the society. Beezley will answer questions.

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APR 25 1961

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## John Birch Society Is Meddling Menace

The John Birch Society, supposedly dedicated to the cause of ultra-conservatism and anti-Communism, is a growing menace to the freedom and individual rights of Americans.

The organization is founded on emotional concepts which may outstrip even the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy in disruption of the normal functions of government. Many members of the administration and Congress have expressed concern; many others already are too fearful to express themselves at all. Such is the impact of any group which prides itself on indiscriminately tagging government officials and prominent citizens with the label of Communism.

A certain segment of the population forever seems willing to accept unsubstantiated charges and accusations and there always seems to be someone available to drum up the wild tales. Result is irreparable damage to many innocent people.

Investigation of the John Birch Society is planned, and we hope that the organization is completely exposed for what it is—a meddling group of trouble-seekers who would attempt to discredit everyone who opposes them.

6—COLUMBIA BASIN NEWS

Monday, April 24, 1961



## COLUMBIA BASIN NEWS



Published every morning except Sunday in the Tri-Cities of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, Washington, by Columbia Basin Publishers, Inc. Established March, 1950, and entered at the Postoffice at Pasco, Washington, as second class matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Legal Newspaper for the City of Pasco and Franklin County.

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GIL LYONS, Managing Editor

JAMES OSBURN, Adv.

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Mail Address: Box 851, Pasco, Wash.

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*[Signature]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

b6  
b7C

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

DATE: 4/17/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

SUBJECT: JUNE LUNCH SOCIETY  
INFO FOLLOWING

on 3/22/61 at 2:01 P.M., [REDACTED] LI 2-3206, a member of the Seattle Police Dept. telephonically contacted the Seattle office of the FBI desiring information regarding the JUNE LUNCH SOCIETY. He stated that he, [REDACTED] of the SPD and others had bought copies of "Operation Isolation" and "Communism on The Map" to use in their anti-communist activities and they wanted to know if the JLS was a Fascist organization since [REDACTED] had been saying that it was and that some comments in "Communism on The Map" had been taken directly from page one of the Blue Book of the JBS. [REDACTED] wanted information to counter this argument.

He was advised that the FBI could not comment on the JBS one way or the other as to it being a Fascist organization and he related that he understood the Bureau's position in this matter. He was told he might counter the argument by talking freedom of speech and asking [REDACTED] to prove his statements. He was also told the head quarters of the JBS and that possibly they could turn sh him with des red info.

ADDITIONAL: None

GK (1)

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# Local Birch Society Head Put on Spot at P-TA Meet

By ADELE FERGUSON

More than 200 persons—many of them teen-agers—packed Central Kitsap junior high auditorium last night to hear the leader of the local John Birch society tell what it was all about.

Daniel Papineau admitted in response to written questions from the crowd that he was a John Birch member, and—on being asked for the second time—that he was the local leader. He declined to reveal the membership.

The naval torpedo station production specialist was on hand at the junior high P-TA meeting to show two of the most controversial films of the day: "Communism on the Map" and "Operation Abolition."

FOLLOWING the showing, he and Kitsap County Prosecutor Gordon Walgren discussed the films and answered questions.

Said Papineau: There were a couple of mistakes in the film showing students rioting in San Francisco during anti-Americanism hearings there but the purpose of showing them was to re-

veal "the complete disrespect for law and order."

Said Walgren: "I do not take the attitude these films should not be shown, but at the time they ARE shown, they should be explained as to the purpose behind them. There are people who feel they should not be shown, that there is a good possibility that films of this nature may be playing directly into the party line of the Communist party."

Papineau said the films were not shown "to make you afraid, or for fear tactics, but to make people realize something might be wrong and look into it. Have your own children know what the score is, be able to recognize the party line."

ASKED ABOUT qualifications for membership in the John Birch society, Papineau said members wanted were "individuals concerned enough to be patriotic citizens, to learn to recognize the Communist doctrine, be willing to devote time and effort to writing letters to congress supporting the society's views."

There is prescribed reading, he said. The Life of John Birch,

a pamphlet called "Why Do People Become Communist?" and the Blue Book of the John Birch society, which contains minutes of the founding meeting of 11 businessmen who decided the Communist threat was something to be met.

"The only thing different between the John Birch society and the 150 or so other anti-Communist groups is that the John Birch society publishes a monthly bulletin," said Papineau.

"THE agenda is to write your congressman endorsing this issue or write your congressman not endorsing that issue. Support this movie or don't support that movie. All letters go in simultaneously and the effect is tremendous."

"Communist Gus Hall says he can get 50,000 letters on any given issue in the mail in 24 hours and the John Birch society figures what we need is to counter these letters."

Asked Walgren: "Who decides what the members should read, what you should support or whether Earl Warren should be impeached or not?"

Papineau said the general council of the society in Massachu-

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
SEfile 100-24754  
BUfile 62-104401

BREMERTON SUN  
Bremerton, Washington,  
4/19/61  
Single Edition

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settles decided that. He then read from a society bulletin a statement from the council disavowing any dictatorial aims.

"Could I become a member of the John Birch society?" asked prosecutor Walgren.

"Yes," said Papineau. "If you will take the trouble to be informed."

"Does anyone vote on me?"

"Well, the names of prospective members are brought up at meetings and if anyone knows any reason why they should not be in the society, they say so. But no vote is taken."

AMONG other questions asked and the answers:

Is there any danger that the John Birch society could become infiltrated by Communists?

"By knowing what these people are, by knowing the party line, by study, we recognize Communists. We're not saying we are experts and I'm not saying there are not any Communists in the organization. These people are as clever as can be."

Is there any danger that the society could become fascist?

"There is always that danger. Our country is about a minus-five

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 43)

(Continued From Page One)

socialist country and to get back to the middle of the road we must add a plus. But what is our major problem today? Who is conquering the world today? Who is conquering billions of people and one-third of the earth's surface? I don't advocate fascism, but Eichmann is being tried because he slew 6,000,000 Jews. Khrushchev killed 7,000,000 in the Ukraine and he comes to the U.S. and is dined and wined in the White House."

Is Eisenhower a Communist as the society said?

"The society has never made that statement." Robert Welch, founder of the society, said in a letter he wrote that Eisenhower was a dedicated member of the Communist conspiracy."

Is the publicity about the society helping the society or does it prefer secrecy?

"No, the publicity is not helping. As for the thing being secret, we do not fear the loyalty oath. The thing will not be found to be subversive."

Are there known Communists in the state of Washington?

"I don't know any personally, but the latest figure is 10,000 in the U.S., so I don't see how they could have missed Washington."

What with all the individuals and groups that have been listed as having Communist leanings, who and what is left to be loyal to?

"The basic American heritage, the spirit of 1776."

The program pushed by anti-Communist groups is to withdraw from the UN, impeach Earl Warren, stop federal income tax. Will this stop the march of communism?

"No, but a lot of people have seen that the growth of captive nations is in proportion to the growth of the UN. How come the UN doesn't take care of Laos? What is it so concerned with the bombing of a department store in Cuba, instead of Laos?"

Why aren't these two films shown to students?

"They have been in Bremerton and can be anywhere simply by asking for them."

What can a student or anyone do? Why aren't the Reds in jail if they're so bad?

"Well, I do not make any accusation of Earl Warren being a Communist sympathizer or anything else. But the Communist party is considered a political party. If you heard two persons

planning to plant a bomb in the naval shipyard, you couldn't do anything about it unless you caught them in the act. That is the direct result of the supreme court."

Walgren was asked whether the John Birch society had come under investigation by any office such as his.

"By my own office, it has not," he said. "But I cannot speak for the U.S. attorney's office. I do know that Attorney General Robert Kennedy takes a dim view of organizations such as this."

Papineau had the last word. The purpose of the John Birch society, he said, was "more divisional responsibility, less government and a better world."

OFFICE MEMORANDUM  
\*\*\* UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT \*\*\*

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (100-25074)

Date: 4/24/61

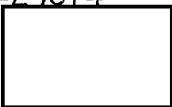
FROM: SA FRED G. COOK

Approved *FGC*

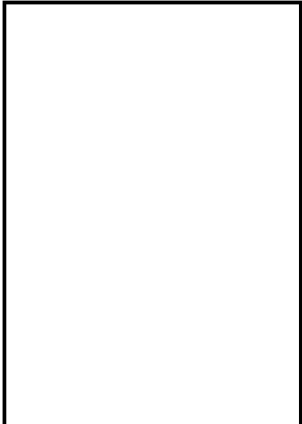
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		4/18/61	F. G. COOK	

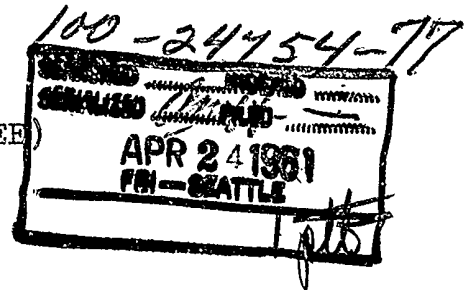
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100-24754  
100-23609

  
(NAACP)  
(ACLU)  
(OPERATION ABOLITION)  
(NOC-NYO)  
(AM. FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE)  
(COPE)  
(JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)

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SE 100-25074

"April 16, 1961

"Date: [redacted]  
Place: Home of [redacted] Seattle, Wn.  
Event: [redacted]  
Those in attendance: [redacted]  
[redacted]

"The main item of business was intensifying the group's role in anti-fascist and anti-right wing activities. [redacted] will continue to collect material on such right wing organizations as the John Birch Society. The group's immediate aim is to determine exactly what groups and organizations are actively involved in anti-right wing activities. Each member of the group was assigned an organization to investigate. Among them were ACLU, NAACP, YD, Trade Unions, COPE, Quakers, Methodist and other religious groups, Teachers Assns. These findings will be summarized and attempts will be made to involve these people in active programs in connection with COSI.

"COSI, an organization founded in opposition to the John Birch Society, was the next topic of discussion. [redacted] at the University of Washington, is one of the founders of this organization. It will have its first organizing meeting sometime in May.

"[redacted] brought up the topic of speakers and questions at showing of the films "Communism on the Map" and "Operation Abolition." He will contact ACLU regarding the matter. It was his plan to organize as many people as possible to attend the showings (a few at each) to ask questions from the floor. Members of the group were in favor of this and said that they would actively support it."

ACTION: None. New file has been recommended for [redacted] who may be identical with 100-19812D-3376 reference.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (100-24754)

DATE: 4/25/61

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
[REDACTED]

On April 20, 1961 [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the writer in the absence of Supervisor [REDACTED] from this office. [REDACTED] has frequently contacted this office in the past to furnish information re alleged Communist activities but primarily to identify himself as [REDACTED] the above-captioned organization, which he did again on the occasion of his call.

He did not seem to have any particular reason for making the call. He did request information as to how he could find out whether or not his telephone was being tapped. He was advised that the ascertaining of this information would not be within the purview of the jurisdiction of the FBI and that he could not doubt consult the telephone company and they should be in a position to assist him. It is noted that [REDACTED] made this same inquiry on March 29, 1961, at which time he contacted SA [REDACTED] (100-24754-31).

[REDACTED] also commented that there is a new radio program called "Party Line" which is a day-time program on radio station KAYO. He felt this program should be listened to; however, he did not indicate whether it was a program he was in favor of or against nor did he furnish information to this extent inasmuch as he was not aware of it but had been told to listen to the program.

ACTION: NONE.

① - FILE  
PTB/jpv  
(1)  
*gpn*

100-24754-78

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 26 1961	
FBI - SEAT	

*pht*



SEE NEXT VOLUME

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

SAC, SEATTLE (100-27654)

5/3/65

SA R. BERT CARTER

APPROVED: RBC

[REDACTED]  
SM - C

SOURCE	EVENT	REC'D	AGENT	LOCATION
[REDACTED]	Report on [REDACTED]	4/19/65	R. BERT CARTER	[REDACTED]

Informant furnished the attached report.

ACTION: None.

1 - 100-27654 [REDACTED]  
cc: [REDACTED]  
100-19081 [REDACTED]  
100-24754 (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)  
100-26068 (SWAP)  
100-27547 (VIET NAM DEMOS)  
100-27655 (UW DEMOS)

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

RBC/jm  
(7)

*File Stripped  
9/7/71 CP*

100-24754-79  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAY 11 1965  
FBI - SEATTLE  
*Gmu*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 02-18-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

April 15, 1965

Description of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is approximately five feet six inches tall, about twenty years of age, brunette, fair complexion, and about 120 pounds. [REDACTED] mentioned at the [REDACTED] on Monday April 12, that she was a Catholic and that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the John Birch Society. [REDACTED] has been seen in various SWAB demonstrations on Viet Nam in the central downtown area of Seattle. [REDACTED] mentioned about having a Viet Nam demonstration at the U.W. on Friday April 16. [REDACTED] appeared to be a student at the U.W. since her talk centered around student activities.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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